TACOS EL CHAVITO GOES TO COURT | MICHAEL UBALDINI'S *ACOUSTIC RUMBLE* RETURNS | THE BRUERY'S BIG, BOLD BLACK TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 8-14, 2019 | VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 11
THIS LITTLE PIGGY MOVED TO MAINE | OCWEEKLY.COM

OC WEEKLY

FREE®

MR. TWO FACE

WAS EX-REPRESENTATIVE DANA ROHRABACHER THE BIGGEST PIG ON VLADIMIR PUTIN'S ANIMAL FARM?

NEWPORT DUNES
WATERFRONT RESORT & MARINA
Upcoming Concerts
11/8 - Justin Abrams & Beyond
Conception w/ Steve Maggiora & Jackie Pember
11/16 - Journey Captured
A Tribute to Journey
12/6 - Queen Nation
NewportDunes.com
1131 Bark Bay Drive, Newport Beach

The Studio
HAIR
12/12 - 11/16
562.494.1014
PLAYHOUSE.ORG

ILLUSIONS
INK HOUSE
COSMETIC TATTOO
MICROBLADING
BODY PIERCING
714.213.9073
ILLUSIONSINKHOUSE@GMAIL.COM
1645 W. ORANGETHORPE AVE., FULLERTON

Magnolia
CAR WASH
100% HAND WASH
Fountain Valley
19820 Magnolia St.
At Talbert Ave.
714-965-4939
Now Part of Action

OC WEEKLY
BEST OF
READERS' CHOICE
WINNER
2017
WE WON!
Best Car Wash In OC!

FREE SPRAY WAX
with purchase of Platinum Wash
$10 OFF
20% OFF DETAIL
$5 OFF
Larger Values Extra Charge. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 12/15/19

HEADLIGHT RESTORATION
$29.99
And get a car wash for $10

We Salute 10% You! EXTRA DISCOUNT
Teachers, Nurses & Servicemen
Limited Time Offer. Valid with one Auto Wash or 10% Detail.

BUENA PARK · ANAHEIM · STANTON · GARDEN GROVE · WESTMINSTER · HUNTINGTON BEACH · LA HABRA ·
MEET ON BEACH
NOV 17 BEACH BLVD
Connecting seven Orange County cities for the first time to reimagine Beach Boulevard. Meet us on Beach by foot or on wheels to discover these communities with fresh eyes, and enjoy a day filled with free active fun for the whole family!
For more information, visit:
meetonbeach.com @meetonbeach
Beach Boulevard Coalition · SCAG · go human · CARS

VACANCY OPEN FOR FULL TIME AND PART TIME JOBS.
NEW POSITIONS OPENED FOR:
• CUSTOMER SERVICE • PUBLIC RELATIONS
• RETAIL • SALES & MARKETING
Compensation: Hourly Plus on Aggressive Commission Structure
We pride our business on the employees that we have and their ability to use excellent customer service to catapult our business to the top.
Experience is not necessary but any background in the following is a huge plus:
• Customer Service • Advertising
• Retail • Public Relations
• Sales • Management
• Restaurant • Transport
• Marketing
APPLY NOW TO SECURE A 1-ON-1 INTERVIEW
Email:- workdepartmentfirm@gmail.com

FANTASY SPRINGS
RESORT CASINO

800.827.2946
www.FantasySpringsResort.com
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203

ALSO ON SALE

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS
LIVE ON STAGE
SAT, DEC 14

DIONNE WARWICK
SAT, DEC 21

GEORGE THOROGOOD
SAT, JAN 11

VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 11 » OCWEEKLY.COM

FELIPE FLORES

up front

The County

06 | NEWS | Was a legendary HB lonchera harassed out of business? By Gabriel San Román

07 | ALT-DISNEY | From Disney worker to OC Board of Supervisors? By Gabriel San Román

07 | HEY, YOU! | Jeff for president. By Anonymous

Cover Story

08 | FEATURE | Was ex-Representative Dana Rohrabacher the biggest pig on Vladimir Putin's animal farm? By R. Scott Moxley

in back

Calendar

12 | EVENTS | Things to do while serenading ourselves in a onesie

Food

15 | REVIEW | A Tsujita acolyte opens Ramen & Tsukemen TAO in Buena Park. By Edwin Goei

15 | WHAT THE ALE | The Bruery's Black Tuesday is still big and bold. By Greg Nagel

16 | LONG BEACH LUNCH | Maka Plancha Latin Kitchen bowls your own. By Erin DeWitt

17 | EAT & DRINK THIS NOW | OLEA in Newport Beach goes fall. By Greg Nagel

Film

18 | REVIEW | *Greener Grass* sands up suburbia with oddball humor. By Aimee Murillo

18 | SPECIAL SCREENINGS | Compiled by Matt Coker

Culture

19 | FASHION | Celebrating 30 years of Ipso Facto in downtown Fullerton. By Lisa Black

19 | ARTS OVERLOAD | Compiled by Aimee Murillo

Music

20 | ALBUM | Michael Ubaldini commemorates 20 years of Acoustic *Rumble*. By Steve Donofrio

21 | CONCERT GUIDE | Compiled by Aimee Murillo

also

23 | TOKE OF THE WEEK | 3 Bros' Twizzlaz. By Jefferson VanBilliard

25 | SAVAGE LOVE | By Dan Savage

on the cover

Illustration by Paul Nagel
Design by Federico Medina

FREE Concerts
RUSSELL DICKERSON
Sat Nov 9
TOYOTA
THE WAILERS
Sat Nov 16
TEQUILA PATRÓN
DEL MAR
BING CROSBY SEASON
NOV 8 thru DEC 1
DelMarRacing.com
Concert is ages 18 and up. Pre-paid tickets, complimentary tickets and season passes will not be accepted after the last race. Concerts are $30 after the last race.

OCWEEKLY.

EDITORIAL
EDITOR Matt Coker
MANAGING EDITOR
Patrice Marsters
SENIOR EDITOR NEWS & INVESTIGATIONS
R. Scott Moxley
STAFF WRITERS
Anthony Pignataro, Gabriel San Román
FOOD EDITOR
Cynthia Scheslicki
CALENDAR EDITOR Aimee Murillo
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/PROOFREADER Lisa Black
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Dave Barton, Joel Beers, Josh Chesler, Alexander Hamilton Cherin, Stacy Davies, Alex Distefano, Erin DeWitt, Steve Donofrio, Edwin Goei, Charisma Madarang, Todd Mathews, Greg Nagel, Nick Nuk am, Anne Marie Panoringan, Andrew Tenkovich, Jefferson VanBillard, Brittany Weeksey, Chris Ziegler
EDITORIAL INTERNS
Brianna Carman, Austin Hall, Nikki Nelsen, Hanh Truong

EDITORIAL ART
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS
Alias Bob Aul, Felipe Flores, Paul Nagel
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Wednesday Aja, Scott Feinblatt, John Gilhooley, Eric Hood, Isaac Larios, Evan Ryan, Christopher Victorio

PRODUCTION
ART DIRECTOR
Federico Medina
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Mercedes Del Real

SALES
PUBLISHER Cynthia Rebolledo
SALES DIRECTOR Kevin Davis
SR. SALES EXECUTIVE
Jason Hamelberg
SALES EXECUTIVES
Kathleen Ford, Daniel Voet, Jason Winder

MARKETING
SALES COORDINATOR
Megan McElroy

ADMINISTRATION
PRESIDENT & CEO
Duncan McIntosh
VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER Jeff Fleming
HR MANAGER Debbie Brack
AR COORDINATOR
Courtney Countryman

OC Weekly is located at 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; (714) 536-5000. Display Advertising, (714) 550-8366; Classified Advertising, (714) 966-5600; Personal Advertising, (888) 278-8600, ocweeklypersonals.com; Fax, (714) 966-5602; Advertising Fax, (714) 550-8405; Classified Fax, (714) 850-8405; Circulation, (800) 755-7325; Website: www.ocweekly.com. The publication is free, one per reader. Removal of more than one paper from any distribution point constitutes theft, and violators are subject to prosecution. Please address all correspondence to OC Weekly 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, email: letters@ocweekly.com. Published weekly (Thursday). OC Weekly is wholly owned and operated by OC Weekly News, Inc., a California corporation. Subscription price: $80 for six months; $60 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to OC Weekly at P.O. Box 30008, Santa Ana, CA 92735. Submissions of all kinds are welcome. Address them to the editor and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Copyright ©2018, OC Weekly News, Inc. All rights reserved. OC Weekly® is a registered trademark of OC Weekly News, Inc. Calling Papers™ is a trademark of OC Weekly News, Inc.

"How many of your editors' choices paid for their placement? If you want local businesses to support your magazine through advertising, you should support local businesses first through your PR. If you can't keep the lights on you must be doing a shit job at journalism."

—Tits McGee, commenting on OC Weekly's *"Discover the Best of 2019" (Oct. 25)*

We respond Huh? Howzat? Old somebody say something? Sorry, Tits, we're busy sucking off a candlemaker for trade to illuminate the office

wtlc

Hmor Empower Restart Outcome.

Looking around your empty home and wondering how to do some good in the community?

Join WTLC in ending the cycle of violence and exploitation by becoming a landlord to those who have experienced trauma.

Be a HERO. Call us today

(714) 992-1939 x 116

For Your Darker Desires... Since 1989

Ipso Facto

Gothic, Victorian, Punk
Men's & Women's Apparel
T-Shirts, Jewelry, Corsets
Leather Accessories
Shoes, Hair Dye, Incense
Crystals, Tarot Cards

517 N. Harbor Bl.
Fullerton
CA 92832

Near the 91 & 57 Freeways
At Chapman Avenue
Hours: Mon -Thurs 11-7
Fri & Sat. 11-8, Sunday 12-6

714-525-7865
ipsofacto@ipso-facto.com
IPSO-FACTO.com
IpsoFactoStore

Workshops, Lectures, Events:
Mondays thru Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Reiki 1 Class-5 Sessions $100
Dr. Rietveld Free Lectures 6 p.m.
"Plethon" Nov. 7, "Confucius" Nov. 21
Sun. Nov. 10, 6 p.m. Ipso Anniversary:
Giveways, Band: Shrouds. FREE
Wed. November 13, 7:30 p.m. $20.00
Pet Psychic Communication Circle
Sun, Nov. 17 & Dec. 8, 6 p.m. $25.00
Marggi's Wire Wrap Jewelry Class
Mon, Nov 18, 7:30 p.m. $10.00
Reiki Share Workshop-Jen Morris
Wed, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. $20.00
Psychic Development Workshop
Nov 23, 4-8 p.m. Psychic Carl Young
Nov 24, Minor Arcana Tarot Class $20
Dec. 15, 6:00 p.m. Divination Event $15

A GREAT SEX LIFE!

Men, regardless of your age or medical history the doctors at American Male Medical can offer you a safe, effective solution for your Erectile Dysfunction or Premature Ejaculation

WITH JUST ONE VISIT! 949-336-9042

$99 CONSULATION ! THIS MONTH ONLY! ($299 VALUE!)

Has Viagra, Cialis or Levitra let you down? Guaranteed* positive results from our meditation
It's easy, safe and works for 97% of all men regardless of their medical history
OR YOUR VISIT IS FREE

Now Offering the Latest Breakthrough in ED Treatment - WAVE Therapy!
Low Energy? Low Sex Drive? Also helping men with Low Testosterone

AMERICAN MALE MEDICAL

Se Habla Español • americanmalemedical.com
Loacted in Irvine, Sherman Oaks, Dallas & Nashville
62 Corporate Park, Suite 140, Irvine, CA 92606

BOOK BY PHONE OR ONLINE: 949-336-9042 | www.americanmalemedical.com

Dos de Defamation

Lawsuit claims owner of legendary HB *lonchera* Tacos El Chavito was harassed out of business

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Tacos El Chavito, a longtime *lonchera* in Huntington Beach, left little grounds for complaints with its decades-long reputation for speedy service, great taco deals and tortillas *hechas a mano*. Rodolfo Renteria, better known as "Chavito" by his loyal customers, worked hard for his business to become successful. Despite an early blip in the 1990s, when he had to go to court against the city to win the right to park his *lonchera* in the mostly Mexican Oak View neighborhood without moving during business hours, the tacos did all the talking.

Chavito worked to find a better, more secure place to park until he found his *lonchera*'s long-standing location along Morgan Lane, not far from the Oak View community. The voluntary move proved wise, even for his brick-and-mortar business neighbors. "Everything was working great," he says. "The storage manager [at Security Public Storage] told me that he wanted me there to bring people to their business, too."

And with a two-tacos-for-a-buck deal and all-you-can-drink jugo de piña, Tacos El Chavito's popularity even allowed him to upgrade to a new-and-improved truck.

So it came as a shock when Tacos El Chavito bid farewell on Facebook to its faithful customers in April 2018. "As some of you already know, Chavito hasn't been at the food truck lately," the post read. "After 20-plus dedicated years, Chavito has decided to sell his business, therefore Tacos El Chavito is under new ownership. He was forced to sell his hard-earn [sic] business of 20-plus years due to the discrimination, harassment, intimidation and extortion that he was subjected to by individuals and a business located near the food truck."

Chavito had already taken allegations of such problems to court. In June 2016, he filed an unfair-business-practices lawsuit against Joshua and Jessica Caudill, who became on-site managers of Security Public Storage and allegedly began a campaign against Tacos El Chavito. According to the complaint, the taco troubles began in 2015, when the Caudills are alleged to have harassed the *lonchera* to put it out of business. "They began to call the police and the city," says Chavito. "They had two dogs and took them to relieve themselves close to where I parked my truck. That's how everything started."

The Caudills lived above their business and didn't want Tacos El Chavito or its patrons in front of their home. The suit also accused them of having hostilely demanded to see licenses and permits from Chavito's workers, filed false ordinance-violation reports to the city inspector, and even yelled, "Get out of here—nobody wants you here!" at the taco truck's workers and customers. A former Security Public Storage worker signed a declaration stating that Joshua Caudill's "distaste for Tacos El Chavito stems from the ethnic origins of its owner and its most frequented customers." Chavito is Mexican.

An email from the Caudills to their supervisor, which was entered into the court record, spelled out the disdain in their own words. "For the third time this week, the taco truck has bad customers smoking weed right outside our apartment," states the email dated Nov. 7, 2015. "I'm tired of it, especially when I have kids with me. They attract nothing but the bottom rung of society and trash up our property. What can I do to get them out of here?"

On Feb. 29, 2016, Chavito received an eviction notice from the office he had rented at Security Public Storage since 2006, the lease allowed him and his workers access to a bathroom within 200 feet of Tacos El Chavito, as required by law. By that April, Joshua Caudill had already bounded county health inspectors to follow up. "Just to clarify again, there is nowhere for this taco truck company to wash their hands or use the restroom within 200 feet," he wrote.

But Caudill didn't get the answer he expected from an agent who investigated the complaint.

"The owner of El Chavito stated that he has permission to use the restroom at Imperial Auto at the corner of Slater and Morgan," wrote Kevin Dugan. "Currently, the truck parks roughly 300 feet from Imperial Auto. If El Chavito starts parking about another 100 feet closer to the corner, they will be within 200 feet of Imperial Auto, and thus in compliance with the restroom requirement. While I empathize with your situation concerning the parking and crime, please keep in mind that if El Chavito is in compliance with the restroom requirement, that there is nothing in my power that I can enforce to make them move."

Chavito hired attorney Jorge Ledezma soon after he learned that the owner of Imperial Auto began to feel pressured by the Caudills for working with him.

Both parties began settlement discussions in 2018, when the alleged harassment took a new turn. According to a broader lawsuit filed in August of this year, Vivian Ulrich, a Security Public Storage employee, allegedly extorted Chavito for $400-per-month payments in exchange for not calling the police on the grounds that he sold drugs out of his taco truck. "I didn't know what to do," says Chavito. "I paid for two or three months, but after that, I began talking with my lawyer about what was happening. I told her I would no longer be paying."

FEDERICO MEDINA

Chavito held to his word. Problems with the city started anew in regards to many calls of complaints about trash from a nearby mobile-home community. "I looked at all of that and decided I couldn't continue my business this way," says Chavito. "Every day, I was being harassed."

He's now suing for defamation. Even though the complaint details what was negatively alleged about him and his business, it doesn't fully spell out the community pillar Tacos El Chavito became.

When children participated in a monthly cleanup of the nearby Oak View neighborhood in 2017, Tacos El Chavito rewarded the youth with the best incentive known to Mexicans: free tacos. "I've always had a good relationship with the police, too," Chavito says.

The first lawsuit ended without a settlement, and the Caudills moved to another state. "For me, it didn't resolve anything," Chavito says. Both he and his attorney are hopeful the second suit may restore not only his reputation, but his business as well. "The goal is for him to [recoup] the last year and a half or two years of business that he lost," says Ledezma. "If possible, he may even consider buying the truck back, if he's allowed to do business again."

In a statement to the *Weekly*, which can be read in full at ocweekly.com, Security Public Storage says Chavito's lease "was terminated with cause" and accuses him of relitigating a case that was dismissed.

On Nov. 1, the case was continued to April 6, 2020.

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

» GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SERGIO CONTRERAS

Park Hopper

Years before becoming a Westminster City Councilman, Sergio Contreras had to leave Disneyland behind. Having worked at the theme park since he was a freshman in high school, the time finally came for him to part ways in 2001. He had a life of public service in mind, and he had gained valuable lessons. Many of them came from his father, Sergio Contreras Sr., who was the first in the family to work at Disneyland after migrating from Mexico.

"My dad is actually still working there—for 43 years—as a janitor on the graveyard shift," says Contreras. "Everything I do now comes from my dad. That ethic he taught me gave me the commitment, rigor and resilience to go to school and work full-time at Disneyland."

And it gives Contreras the compass guiding him toward his next endeavor: seeking to represent District 1 on the Orange County Board of Supervisors. In looking at the 2020 election, he recalls his humble upbringing in an overcrowded one-bedroom apartment in Westminster.

Contreras' father worked hard, saving up to move the family into a home in Westminster in 1984—the same year he took part in the "Friendliest Strike on Earth." The job gave him enough to buy his son's college books, but not pay tuition. Contreras worked at the theme park throughout college as a Plaza Inn cook and sharpened his leadership skills via HERE Local 681, his union at the time, while helping Ada Briceño become its president.

With a college degree in hand, Contreras turned toward the Westminster Unified School District next. He lost his first trustee bids before becoming school board president, a persistence he learned during his Disney days. Now, Contreras brings much union support with him to his current supervisor run, as well as the experiences he gained among Disneyland's working-class. A focus on workforce housing is among his priorities, if elected.

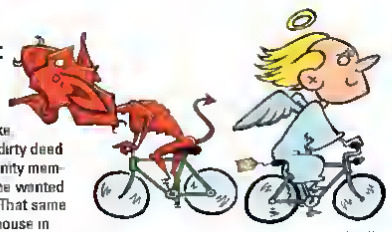
"What's missing from Orange County right now is a champion for working families," says Contreras. "I have the experience of almost two decades of service on the school board and city council. I understand what it takes to be a champion for working families."

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Jeff for President



BOB AUL

You are the thief who snuck into my back yard and stole my son's bike. I posted the video of your dirty deed to Ring.com, and a community member reached out and said he wanted to replace the bike for us. That same day, Jeff from Patio Warehouse in Orange went to Walmart and picked up the same model of bicycle as the one that was taken and gave it to my son. Though it was a bummer to have something stolen, it warms my heart that there are still good people looking out for others.

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

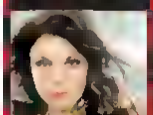
THE COACH HOUSE

www.thecoachhouse.com

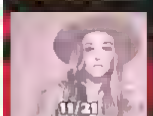
TICKETS and DINNER RESERVATIONS: 949-496-8930

11/10 DAVID WILCOX

11/13 TIM REYNOLDS and TR3



11/14 JANE MONHEIT



11/21 ALISAH PORTER

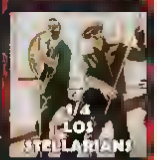
11/23 OZOMATLI

11/29 & 11/30 & 12/1 THE BLASTERS

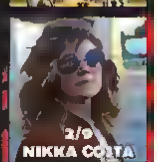
11/9	SUPER DIAMOND
11/9	HEART A MAC: FEATURING DOG N BUTTERFLY & MIRAGE
11/10	DAVID WILCOX
11/13	88.5FM Presents: TIM REYNOLDS and TR3
11/14	JANE MONHEIT
11/15	DAVID SEIGHTON'S SPACE ODDITY
11/16	THE HIGHWAYMAN SHOW
11/21	ALISAH PORTER
11/22	THE ASSOCIATION
11/23	88.5FM Presents: OZOMATLI
11/24	88.5FM Presents: KATE VOEGELE & TYLER HILTON
11/29	X: XMAS / THE SLASTERS
11/30	X: XMAS / THE SLASTERS
12/1	X: XMAS / THE SLASTERS
12/9	JOHNY LANG
12/7	BLUE OYSTER CULT
12/8	HIGHER GROUND (STEVIE WONDER TRIBUTE)
12/13	THE SIDE DEAL
13/14	THE MUSICAL BOX PRESENTS A GENESIS EXTRAVAGANZA VOL. II
12/19	ANDREW MCMAHON
12/20	GARY HO HO HOEY
12/21	AMBROSIA
12/22	David Benoit CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS
12/27	DONAVON FRANKENREITER / Tom Curren
12/28	DONAVON FRANKENREITER / Tom Curren
12/29	BRAD ANDERSON THE GREATEST SINGING IMPRESSIONIST IN THE WORLD
12/31	THE ENGLISH BEAT / THE UNTOUCHABLES
1/3	BEATLES vs STONES
1/4	LOS STELLARIANS (feat SA Martinez of 311)
1/10	DAVID LINDLEY
1/11	WILD CHILD
1/12	HEARTBEAT CITY (THE CARS TRIBUTE)
1/16	COCO MONTOYA
1/17	MIDGE URE
1/18	STEVE TYRELL
1/21	88.5FM Presents: SID HEAD TODD and THE MONSTERS
1/24	SKELETON CREW (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
1/26	JOHN MAYALL
1/31	QUEEN NATION
2/5	THE FOUR FESHMEN

12/13 SIDE DEAL

12/27 & 12/28 DONAVON FRANKENREITER



1/4 LOS STELLARIANS



2/9 NIKKA COSTA

UPCOMING SHOWS

2/7	WYNONNA & THE BIG HOUSE	3/8	JIMMIE VAUGHAN / TINSLEY ELLIS
2/8	SINEAD O'CONNOR	3/11	The Music of Cream Disraeli Gears Tour
2/9	NIKKA COSTA	3/12	BUDDY GUY
2/13	PHIL VASSAR "Stripped Down"	3/15	AARON NEVILLE
2/14	OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA	3/20	TOMMY CASTRO
2/15	PAT BOONE	3/21	ENGLISH BEAT
2/16	ALBERT CUMMINGS	3/27	THE SAMPLES & FREDDY JONES BAND
2/21	JOSHUA RADIN & friends with BEN KWELLER and WILLIAM FITZSIMMONS	4/2	JOAN OSBORNE and THE WEEPIES
		4/16	Y&T
2/23	BUSTER CUMMINGS	4/18	MARC COHN
2/26	CUSTOM CUMMINGS	4/30	THE SPINNERS
2/28	WALTER TROUT	5/3	MADELEINE PEYROUX
3/1	WISHBONE ASH	5/30	THE 5TH DIMENSION
		8/16	PIANO MEN

ticketweb 866 468 3399 33157 Camino Capistrano | San Juan Capistrano

Like us on facebook.com/coachhouseconcerthall | Follow us on Twitter @coach_house

MR. TWO FACE
WAS EX-REPRESENTATIVE DANA ROHRABACHER THE BIGGEST PIG ON VLADIMIR PUTIN'S ANIMAL FARM?
BY R. SCOTT MOXLEY
ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL NAGEL

In early 2019, about two months after coastal Orange County congressional district residents finally booted Dana Tyrone Rohrabacher from office, the 30-year incumbent stood in front of a local crowd who'd come to his "Appreciation Party" in the wake of a historic ballot-box shellacking. Based on his ruddy complexion, watery eyes and disjointed speech, booze—perhaps a pitcher or two of potent margaritas, his cherished cocktail—made the appearance less painful. Election experts had long-considered a Rohrabacher defeat unlikely thanks to closed-door gerrymandering deals with California Democrats, who may have slyly wanted an embarrassing GOP nitwit on the public stage.

In a district repeatedly molded to hold a comfortable margin of Republicans, the onetime *Orange County Register* editorial writer—who routinely calls himself "a patriot," but chickened out of Vietnam War combat—was free from the late 1980s to wander the right-wing rubber-chicken circuit, religious radio studios, cozy parlor gatherings of corporate moguls and the halls of Congress as a fringe character who inspired palpable fright and unintentional laughter. In his final speech in the House, he compared his bravery to that of Davy Crockett of Battle of the Alamo fame and paraded himself "as one of the fierce warriors of the Cold War." The 72-year-old sold himself on places such as FOX News as the hip "surfin' congressman," though on the occasions I saw him in the waters off Huntington Beach, he mostly idled on body boards and looked fragile tackling foot-and-a-half waves

His repertoire of boneheadedness seemed boundless. Rohrabacher spent years demanding that California hospitals lock out wounded and sick people seeking life-or-death medical treatment if they were Mexican. He angrily blasted Bill Clinton-era Democrats for supposedly giving communist China highly sensitive defense-satellite technology, but retreated quietly when this paper found a buried letter he'd signed advocating that precise transfer. He used C-SPAN speeches to rant about the evils of brutal dictators before suspiciously becoming the lead Capitol Hill apologist for Russia's Vladimir Putin, whose critics repeatedly found themselves meeting mysterious deaths.

Underscoring a career that wobbled from blunder to irrelevance back to blunder, Rohrabacher touted Osama bin Laden-harboring Taliban terrorists in the mid-1990s as noble, enlightened folks smeared by ignorant American journalists. After the 9/11 attacks, the congressman, who fancies himself a screenwriter, worked to erase that history, offering an alternative reality that cast himself as a brave, unyielding freedom fighter: an imaginary Rambo, if you will, without the chiseled physique hiding beneath his trademark food-soiled polyester suits and scuffed old shoes.

In Rohrabacher's fantasy world, his loss last November to Laguna Beach's Harley Rouda can't be attributed to voters' increasing wariness about his performance. It must have been the result of an evil, international anti-democracy plot, as he suggested at his "Appreciation Party." The chief conspirator against his re-election was, he claimed, a "Bolshevik billionaire": George Soros. "That's a badge of honor as far as I'm concerned," Rohrabacher offered. "That's cool."

Orange County has a history of producing nutty political extremists, some far more malignant than Rohrabacher, but he nonetheless continues to enjoy a delusional following. "He was the guy the swamp tried to fight before there was a swamp," Rhonda Rohrabacher, his wife, confusingly told the crowd with tears in her eyes. "And let's never forget that."

The veteran politician, who married his spouse after she committed 1995 election-fraud crimes, looked satisfied, then offered his own stream-of-consciousness version that linked a 200-year-old war to modern-day political shenanigans to oyster farming to the 2020 election in just eight sentences.

"Those poor souls who made sure the flag kept flying over Fort McHenry," he said, jokingly referencing events that inspired Francis Scott Key's crafting of "The Star-Spangled Banner" while British naval ships bombarded the military installation in the War of 1812. But Rohrabacher forgot to mention the salient point: "And that flag kept flying over the United States of America. That's what we're here for."

After glancing again at Rhonda—who pocketed $5,158 per month from campaign coffers during the last election cycle, plus another $11,000 as an election-defeat bonus for proclaimed campaign-manager duties—Rohrabacher seemed to suddenly remember the "swamp" angle.

"And, you know, sometimes it takes a lot of sacrifice, but I, uh, I may not have made any money at all" while in Congress, he said, ignoring the nearly $6 million in salary he'd collected.

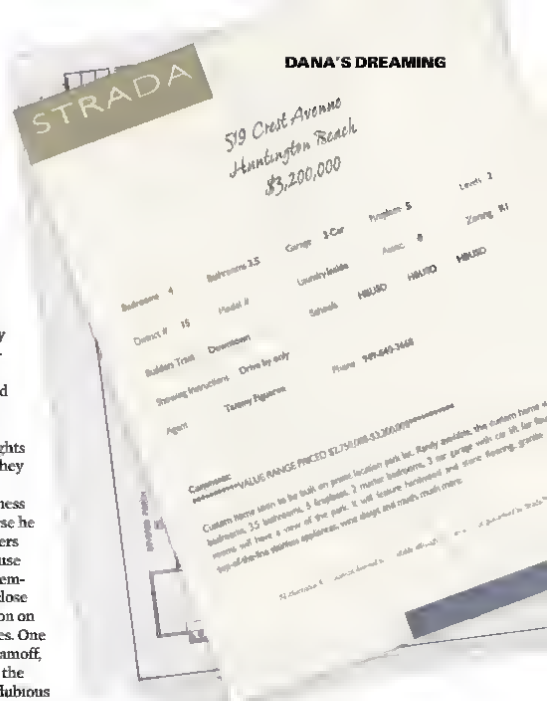
"By the way, isn't it a miracle that most of these members of Congress—I don't know how they do it, but after 10 years, they leave Congress as millionaires," continued Rohrabacher, who sold his $1.7 million Costa Mesa house after the election and set his sights on Maine. "How did they do that? I did not."

That disingenuousness is astounding. Of course he knows how dirty players in the political world use influence to enrich themselves. Several of his close friends landed in prison on bribery-related charges. One was lobbyist Jack Abramoff, a travel companion of the Christian Coalition's dubious Ralph Reed and the subject of the acclaimed 2010 documentary *Casino Jack and the United States of Money*, in which Rohrabacher is shown defending slave labor for his pal's slimy foreign clients.

Two years before a federal judge sentenced Abramoff to a six-year prison term for mail fraud, bribery and tax evasion, the congressman proved willing to hold his hand out for non-campaign money. He hit up the dirty lobbyist to make a $2,300 off-the-books contribution ostensibly as birthday presents for his then-infant triplets. Others who put checks in the pot included Erik Prince, founder of the Blackwater USA mercenary-army operation ($1,500), Patrick J. Nolan, a onetime California state Assembly member caught in an FBI bribery scheme ($100), Christopher Cox, the former congressman who headed the Securities and Exchange Commission when Wall Street caused the 2008 economy's collapse ($480), and Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX, who sought government contracts and subsidies while Rohrabacher sat on a House subcommittee overseeing NASA ($3,080). In total, the congressman, who loves wearing eye-burning Hawaiian shirts, collected nearly $30,000 in the ploy, according to records obtained by the *Weekly*.

Three others in Rohrabacher's circle were also implicated in ethics scandals involving Russian money: representatives Bob Ney (R-Ohio), Tom DeLay (R-Texas) and Curt Weldon (R-Pennsylvania).

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



MR. TWO FACE

» FROM PAGE 9

Putin spy Maria Butina dined with Rohrabacher, sought his advice and ran a plot to infiltrate conservative political groups, including the National Rifle Association, with infusions of foreign cash. Butina won an 18-month federal prison sentence, though the congressman defended her as an innocent victim of unethical FBI agents and called her arrest "stupid." Never mind she admitted to a national security prosecutor that she conspired to act as an unregistered Russian agent. In a Nov. 3 CBS broadcast of *60 Minutes*, however, the 30-year-old Butina portrayed herself to correspondent Lesley Stahl as a victim of American "racism" against Russians.

Despite the legal woes of his warped associates, Rohrabacher has always escaped charges. But that doesn't mean he's been the angel he labels himself. The *Weekly* obtained a series of records that provide a previously unseen glimpse into the congressman's world at the midpoint of his Washington, D.C., career. Those documents depict a man determined to bond with Russians tied to Putin's espionage operations, as well as a thirst to cash in on secret business deals. At the time, the congressman's files show that he and his wife were eyeing houses in the $3 million range.

When Rohrabacher first ran for Congress in 1988, he campaigned as the "term-limits champion" by urging a cap of three, two-year terms to protect the public from entrenched, career politicians. That sentiment quickly disappeared once he landed in the Capitol. By the time he finished his ninth election in 2004, Rohrabacher had trampled a series of Democratic Party opponents, including winning a 33 percent margin of victory.

On Sept. 15 of that year, he pushed for a constitutional amendment allowing non-natural born citizens of at least 20 years to serve as president or vice president. The congressman called the Founding Fathers' notion that the nation needed to be protected from undue foreign influence "archaic." Observers believed his move was a ham-fisted attempt to aid then-pal and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was born in Austria.

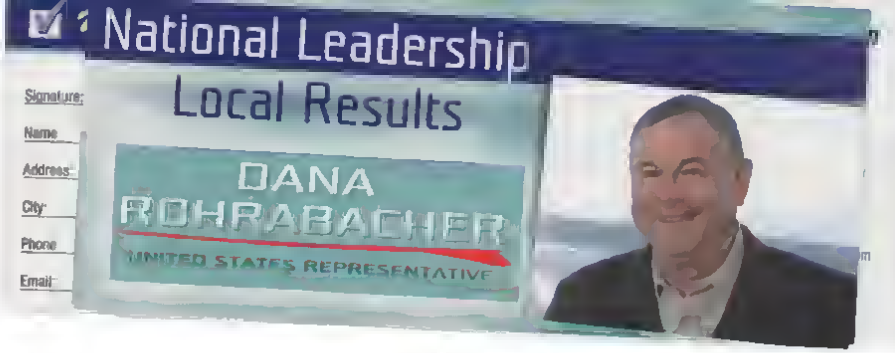
That same day, Rohrabacher also sponsored House Resolution 5102, a bill "encouraging the promotion of democracy; free, fair and transparent elections, and respect for human rights and the rule of law in Ukraine," which had splintered off as its own pro-Western nation after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The argument eventually became cheap lip service. Though initially subtle, Rohrabacher's drift toward Putin was, in hindsight, an all-out deliberate course correction to serve as the dictator's propaganda tool. Indeed, by early 2014, the congressman was openly backing the Russian military's invasion to annex Crimea, where Putin erected a high-tech wall on the Ukrainian border.

How to explain Rohrabacher's journey from anti-autocrat crusader to celebrator of a ruthless former KGB agent? After all, he has never stopped berating communist Chineses bosses as monsters. In January, he acknowledged to a Washington, D.C., interviewer that the "avalanche" of negative coverage about his Putin bond now annoys him. Yet, he still tried to soft-sell the dictator's well-documented savage edges. "I'll tell you what Putin is," he said. "Putin is Mayor [Richard] Daley [the one-time boss of a Democratic machine in Chicago]. And he's watching out like Mayor Daley; he's watching out for Chicago and his clique. Putin is watching out for Russia and his clique."

Rohrabacher then asserted that Putin's assassinations of political dissenters places him on par with American leaders, adding incoherently, "When Russia was our enemy, it was the Soviet Union, and it was being guided by the idea—the ideology that was dictating what it would do rather than just what's in the interest of its country."

Are such ramblings what motivated the congressman's flip-flop? Or could there be other, more plausible explanations? In May 2017, *The New York Times* reported the FBI warned Rohrabacher that Russian spies had been working to recruit him. He laughed off the situation, claiming he can easily outwit Putin's agents.

On Feb. 22, 2005, a Rohrabacher relative sent a typed, single-spaced, three-page letter after the congressman lobbied him for a large sum of cash he could use for entrepreneurial opportunities. The relative, a veteran businessman,



declined the offer. He also discussed the woes of launching companies because of long delays in seeing profits, as well as "precarious" potential fallout of involving friends and family as investors in half-cocked plans. The man advised Rohrabacher to stick to what he knows: winning campaigns.

"I have to add, Dana," the relative wrote, "that you have made me increasingly nervous over the past few years in your attempts to stray from your chosen field to think, talk and venture into the business arena. With the ethics questions ever present, I would hope it would make you less likely to do so. The combination income you now enjoy along with the more-than-generous retirement plan you'll be getting should push you to concentrate more on managing and living within the income you have rather than rolling the dice to hit the jackpot elsewhere, which could jeopardize the situation you have in hand."

Though the Rohrabachers reported making close to $380,000 annually, the advice was ignored. On May 11, 2005, records obtained by the *Weekly* show that a biodiesel business with ties to Moscow, where Putin held firm control, was willing to cut a deal with the Rohrabachers. "We hereby confirm that we give Rhonda full support for USA and Canada [rights], and we will not sell through any other sales channel for the time being," the email stated. "We are right now making the final test of the new evaporation unit, and we hope to have everything ready in about one month time."

Rhonda's detailed professional résumé, which we've also obtained, boasts a BA degree from Loyola Marymount University in European Studies, with a minor in German. She lists her prior jobs as a news columnist, political campaigner and field representative for a state assemblyman. There is no mention of expertise—or even a gofer internship—in the biodiesel industry. But the congressman's wife also noted she'd built "international technology experience" in the early 2000s by working as a consultant for "Russian manufacturers on how to market their products in the United States—[those] products included nutritional supplements and home electronics."

MONEY WOES WHILE SEEKING RUSSIAN HELP

By the mid- to late '90s, close Rohrabacher drinking pal Abramoff began efforts to sell Russian interests. *The Washington Post* would later report on how millions of dollars in Russian money flowed secretly to conservative U.S. politicians and their related organizations. The *Post* described Abramoff's strong ties to Marina Nevskaya, a Russian who'd taught at the school where her nation's intelligence agents trained. Nevskaya was partial owner of the oil firm Naftasib with fellow countryman Alexander Koulakovsky. Naftasib supplied oil for the Russian military's Black Sea fleet. Nevskaya and Koulakovsky were also business partners with Viktor Chernomyrdin, who ran state-owned monopoly Gazprom and associated with Putin. In 1999, Representative Weldon honored Koulakovsky's alleged dedication to democracy as well as Russia's commitment to freedom after the Russians hired his wife as a $20,000-per-month consultant.

In July 2019, veteran Russian expert J. Michael Waller told a New Zealand investigative journalist that he believes Naftasib engaged in sinister activities. "In my estimation, Naftasib and its agents were running what appeared to be aggressive political-intelligence operations against the United States," Waller told reporter Cass Mason. "All the indicators were consistent with the pattern of a Russian-state-sponsored entity working to corrupt elected American officials, and I had warned people of this possibility, and that was my position more than a decade ago. It remains my position today."

Mason also noted that the journal *Russian Reform Monitor* had identified Naftasib's bond with Russian spy agencies.

You know who else worked for Naftasib interests? Dana and Rhonda Rohrabacher, at a time when records show he wanted substantial cash infusions and she was bouncing checks after chronic shopping sprees. It got so bad that, at one point, Macy's declined a request for a credit card because of the Rohrabachers' history of failing to pay bills.

On Sept. 18, 2005, the congressman bypassed his own six email accounts and sent Nevskaya a message using Rhonda's private one. In a "Dear Marina" communication, Rohrabacher reported that he was willing to work behind-the-scenes to help Naftasib on its "major investment" plans for a Ukrainian shipping port. He bragged that he'd spoken about the project with Kateryna Yushchenko, the American-born wife of Viktor Yushchenko, then-Ukraine's president, who'd been severely poisoned precisely a year earlier by men who fled to Putin's Russia. A medical exam found the president's blood contained dioxin 50,000 times greater than the general population. He survived, thanks to rehabilitation efforts, but Russia refused to extradite the suspects.

In his communication with Nevskaya, Rohrabacher cryptically wrote, "I may be able to lead a congressional delegation to Berlin on the first four days of October. Is there a *chance that we could meet the contact you had in mind* at that time and place? All the best, Dana." [My emphasis.]

Nevskaya responded two days later, to Rhonda's private email account. "Dear Dana," she wrote. "Thank you so much for [contacting Kateryna] . . . Please, let me know your schedule when you know. Kisses for Rhonda and the kids. Marina."

It's not clear what transpired in the aftermath, except that Rohrabacher increased his blame-America rants for the Kremlin and started to buy fine suits with button-down shirts that contained cotton. He also stayed in office another 14 years. During the period, the couple left their gorgeous $3,300-per-month Costa Mesa rental resembling a pigsty, as we documented in the December 2013 article "Dana Rohrabacher Is Dirty."

Ukraine remains in the headlines, thanks to another pro-Putin politician's controversial delay of sending a congressionally approved $391 million aid package to help that ally thwart ongoing Russian military aggression. Donald Trump's activities are the subject of current impeachment hearings. In 2017, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) observed that if any American politicians were on Putin's payroll, it had to be "Rohrabacher and Trump . . . Swear to God." That observation explains plenty, if accurate.

Now that Rohrabacher is a private citizen—who has promised to form a government-lobbying firm with ex-Secret Service agent Paul Behrends—will he serve swampy clients? The ex-congressman long ago blocked my efforts to question him. But it's clear his public persona as Mr. Pro-America doesn't match his private machinations in league with ultra-wealthy authoritarian-regime characters.

RSCOTTMOXLEY@OCWEEKLY.COM

*calendar

thursday›
WERK!

JEFF DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

fri/11/08

[THEATER]

Take the Throne

The Lion In Winter

In the pursuit of ultimate power, it's no surprise that those in close proximity will try to gain it by questionable means. That's the case in James Goldman's *The Lion In Winter*, a perfect production for those missing their *Game of Thrones* or *Succession* fix. Here, King Henry II is planning to name his successor at the upcoming Christmas holiday in 1183. But more than one possible heir has an eye on the throne, among them Henry's three sons. All three—plus Henry's wife, Queen Eleanor—try to influence the King, and they must do so before he makes his final decision at the holiday get-together. Take in this well-acted drama on the Laguna Playhouse stage this month.

The Lion In Winter at Laguna Playhouse, 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (949) 497-2787, www.lagunaplayhouse.com. 7:30 p.m. Through Nov. 24. $50-$75. —AIMEE MURILLO

[THEATER]

Hardly Silent

Silence! The Musical

In an age in which anything and everything is ripe for the musical-parody treatment, one devoted to *Silence of the Lambs* comes as no surprise. How anyone could conceive of this is beyond us, but Jon and Al Kaplan and Hunter Bell composed, wrote and developed this version of the story about a rookie FBI agent enlisting the help of psychotic cannibal Dr. Hannibal Lecter to hunt down a serial killer named Buffalo Bill. Fans of the 1991 Jonathan Demme classic will no doubt find this every bit as crude, smutty and uproarious as the original was thrilling and horrifying—so go to STAGEStheatre in Fullerton for this rowdy update no one asked for—but we are so glad exists!

Silence! The Musical at STAGEStheatre, 400 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 525-4484, stagesoc.org. 8 p.m., also Sat.-Sun. $30-$32. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/11/09

[NATURE]

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Forest Bathing

The Japanese word *shinrin-yoku*—which translates as "forest bath"—is becoming quite the rage around the world. Think of it as getting back to nature, only with such possible health benefits as a boosted immune system, lowered blood pressure and even better sleep (and no, nudity is NOT part of the regimen). Forest bathing has long been part of the national health program in Japan, and today you have the chance to do some forest bathing of your own at the Fullerton Arboretum. Juan Lazo Bautista, a trained Forest Therapy Guide, conducts the session.

Forest Bathing at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton, (657) 278-3407, fullertonarboretum.com. 8:15 a.m. $25-$30. —ANTHONY PIGNATARO

[ARTS]

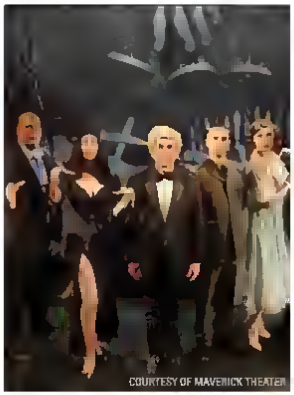
DIY Life

Rock, Paper, Scissors

Communities that zine together shine together as today's activity demonstrates. The Segerstrom Center hosts this new event in which creative types of all ages can partake in some DIY fun, making zines and buttons, while bands Lily Waters and Oscura Luna, as well as the *chingona* DJs of Chulita Vinyl Club, take the stage. Friendly zine queen Ziba Zehdar offers an engaging workshop on cutting, pasting, writing and/or drawing the mixed-media mini book of your dreams. And writer/YAAWN drummer/educator/Rock n' Roll Camp for Girls organizer (and *OC Weekly* contributor) Candace Hansen holds a special workshop on photo zines for the shutterbugs. Grab some eats at George's Cafe and even take home a special screen-printed tote bag to carry your extra copies in!

Rock, Paper, Scissors at Argyros Plaza at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787, www.scfta.org. 1 p.m. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

sun/11/10



[THEATER]

Best Worst Play

Plan 9 From Outer Space

Ed Wood's 1959 film *Plan 9 From Outer Space* has the distinction of being the worst film ever made by a human being. It's a startlingly incoherent, clunky and weird story about aliens who try to take over the world by resurrecting the dead. It's also hilarious—though not in any way intended by Wood—and a joy to watch. In other words, it's perfect for adaptation by an outfit like Maverick Theater. Though it's billed as "the worst play of all time," there's no doubt that you'll have a blast, even if you have no clue what's going on.

Plan 9 From Outer Space at the Maverick Theater, 110 E. Walnut Ave., Fullerton, (714) 526-7070, mavericktheater.com. 6 & 8 p.m. Through Nov. 16. $10–$20. —ANTHONY PIGNATARO

[CONCERT]

Then There Were Three

Built to Spill

Many indie bands don't make it past the 10-year mark, let alone to 20—at least not without a few scrapes. But thanks to singer/guitarist Doug Martsch's decision to make the group have a fluctuating lineup of musicians for every album, Built to Spill is designed to last. The band's sound has shifted slightly in various directions, but each new release is infused with Built to Spill's brand of wistful indie rock for the masses. Tonight's show sees the group in its current state as a three-member trio as they embark on their Keep It Like a Secret Tour—witness their raw, poppy sensibilities once more.

Built to Spill at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, observatoryoc.com. 8 p.m. $25. —AIMEE MURILLO

mon/11/11

[CONCERT]

Feel Seduced

Violent Vickie

Creep into the dark, synth-y sounds of Long Beach's Violent Vickie, a solo project by Vickie Valent. The artist, who coins her music as "synth riot," blends the pop-punk energies of Le Tigre, Bikini Kill and Atari Teenage Riot with glittery electronic elements reminiscent of Glass Candy, Crystal Castles and Kraftwerk. Valent's own echo-y, seductive vocals pull the listener in even further as she belts them with hypnotic rhythms in front of multimedia projections. Every Monday this month, you can be serenaded by Valent and her synthesizer, drum machine and fellow musicians, Shiro and Abbyss are in tow tonight.

Violent Vickie with Shiro and Abbyss at 4th Street Vine, 2142 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 343-5463, www.facebook.com/violentvickiemusic. 8 p.m. Free. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

tue/11/12

[CONCERT]

Cosmic Pop

Frankie Cosmos

Cult indie queen Frankie Cosmos has been supplying tender lo-fi pop soogs since her debut in 2001, but her latest release, *Close It Quietly*, displays a more energetic, upbeat sound. Lead singer/songwriter Greta Kline's DIY spirit is inspired by her affinity for bands under the K Records label, teen-bedroom alt-pop and New York's folk rock. But Frankie Cosmos' music shines beyond such influences, with personal and imaginative lyrics interspersed with gentle guitar and other instrumentals. Tonight, Kline and the gang play Chain Reaction for a show that (hopefully) isn't sold out by now, as part of their West Coast tour. See them live with indie-rock icons Dear Nora and Stephen Steinbrink.

Frankie Cosmos with Dear Nora and Stephen Steinbrink at Chain Reaction, 1652 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 635-6067, allages.com. 7 p.m. $17. —AIMEE MURILLO

TANGENT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
INTHEEND
2 HOUR CONCERT! ALL THE LINKIN PARK HITS!
TOXICITY
LINKIN PARK
SYSTEM of a DOWN
TOOL, A PERFECT CIRCLE TRIBUTES
IN THE END, TOXICITY, A PERFECT TOOL
FRIDAY, DEC 6
GOLDEN SAILS HOTEL 6285 E. PACIFIC COAST HWY. LB, CA 90803
DOORS OPEN AT 8:00PM 18 & OVER FULL BAR WITH IO CHEAP DRINKS, FREE PARKING
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.UNIVERSE.COM

OATE NIGHT NOV. 14 5:30-8:30PM
FUNDRAISER
Comedy Show
PROCEEDS FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KIDS
COMEDIANS:
TAMER KATTAN • JOHNNY MITCHELL • RAYMOND MONTOYA
RAY REYNAGA • SILVIA SAIGE • HILLARY WELLS
HOSTED BY SPEAKEASY COMEDY
TICKETS AS LOW AS $30 • TO PURCHASE GO TO KIDSLOVERUGBY.EVENTBRITE.COM
YOST THEATER • 307 N. SPURGEON. SANTA ANA • @RUGBYEXCHANGE501C3
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 714-293-5304

Pastor Joe & Therese Furey

HisPlace Westminster

14061 Chestnut St.
Westminster
714-893-6555
hisplace.com/wm/

LIVING FREE

FRIDAY NIGHT RECOVERY | Every Friday Night

Dinner: 6-7pm | $3
Music: 7-7:30pm
Speakers: 7:30-8pm
Breakout Groups: 8-9pm
Addiction Groups
Steppin Out: Relapse prevention for those in first 9 months of sobriety
Womsn's 12 Step Group
Men's 12 Step Group
Codependency Group Freedom from codependency
Child Csrs Provided (9m-12yrs)
Court Csrds Signed

SPEAKER TOPIC
OVERCOMING THE POWER OF ADDICTION
November 8

SPEAKER TOPIC
NO DISCIPLINE NO RECOVERY
November 15

SPEAKER TOPIC
FROM SELFISHNESS TO SELFLESSNESS
November 22

wed/11/13

[LONG BEACH]

GRRRLS RUN THE WORLD

Sleater-Kinney

Emerging from the Pacific Northwest during the creative crucible of the 1990s, Sleater-Kinney set the musical world ablaze with their fierce feminist rock. The band never outright identified as a Riot Grrl outfit, but they bore the heavy imprint of the musical movement's influence. After a lengthy hiatus, they reunited five years ago and thankfully began recording anthems anew. Aptly titled for these times, *The Center Won't Hold* was released this summer, a triumph unfortunately marked by the departure of longtime drummer Janet Weiss. But the show goes on with Conn Tucker and Carrie Brownstein at the helm, armed with a superb new collection of songs. Sleater-Kinney remain as notous a good time as ever!

Sleater-Kinney at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com. 8 p.m. $37.50. —GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

[FILM]

Under the Sea

Ponyo

Regency South Coast Village's Classic Film Wednesdays usually showcase the usual suspects (think *Casablanca*, *The Godfather* and, yes, *The Usual Suspects*). But sometimes the theater's programmers think outside the box office and choose a title like Academy Award-winning anime master and Studio Ghibli co-founder Hayao Miyazaki's *Ponyo*. It's the story of 5-year-old Sosuke, who finds a goldfish trapped in a container on the beach, names her Ponyo and keeps her as a pet. Ponyo then turns into a little girl with impressive powers because, unbeknownst to Sosuke, she is the daughter of a mysterious aquatic wizard. Beautifully drawn and executed, *Ponyo* was adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale *The Little Mermaid*, which explains why Disney distributed it in more U.S. theaters than any previous anime one year after its 2008 premiere in Japan.

Ponyo at Regency South Coast Village, 1561 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701, regencymovies.com. 7:30 p.m. $9. —MATT COKER

thu/11/14

[BURLESQUE]

House of 1,000 Hotties

Living Dead Girls

If your Halloween were bereft of sexy spookiness, make up for it at Harvelle's tonight with this horror-themed burlesque show. Los Angeles troupe the Bootleg Bombshells brings a repeat performance of its lauded Rob Zombie burlesque show, which will be filled with a talented cast of aerialists, pole dancers, contortionists and dancers who will interact with audience members for even more thrills. You don't necessarily need to be a Rob Zombie fan to enjoy this bloody babe fest, as this tribute will feature movie excerpts from some of his most popular movies projected in the background. So sit back and enjoy the sights of these horror-obsessed ladies (and gents!) who know how to bring macabre madness to every day of the year!

Living Dead Girls at Harvelle's Long Beach, 201 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (310) 426-8205; longbeach.harvelles.com. 9:30 p.m. $15-$50. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

[POLITICS]

DISCUSSION TIME

They Call Us Bruce Live Podcast

For nearly 100 episodes, writers/producers Jeff Yang and Phil Yu have discussed issues relating to Asian American visibility in the United States in their podcast *They Call Us Bruce* (the name refers to Asian American men being generically called Bruce, after the famous actor Bruce Lee). They've discussed various Asian characters in television, film and music with numerous guest hosts, and tonight, they'll touch on politics while recording live at Edison Theatre in Long Beach. In addition to their usual check-in on the state of Asian American representation in media, the unfiltered Yang and Yu bring this poignant conversation right before the California Democratic Party Convention in Long Beach.

They Call Us Bruce Live Podcast at Edison Theatre, 213 E. Broadway, Long Beach, eventbrite.com. 6 p.m. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

PHOTOS BY EDWIN GOEI

Pork It All

A Tsujita acolyte opens Ramen & Tsukemen TAO in Buena Park

BY EDWIN GOEI

If you blindfolded me and fed me a strand of the noodles from the new Ramen & Tsukemen TAO in Buena Park, I'd tell you it was udon. These are the most bloated ramen noodles in Orange County. They have three times the lime weight of the stuff I boiled in my college dorm room. Top Ramen is as distant a cousin to these noodles as Hamburger Helper is to a $100 steak at Mastro's. This is most evident with the soup in which it floats. It's so heavy, rich and viscous that it's less like soup and more like Thanksgiving gravy.

Everything I tasted in that first bowl of Ramen & Tsukemen TAO's miso ramen is indicative of the Sapporo style—its heartiness is designed for harsh Hokkaido winters. After fortifying themselves with bowls such as the one I slurped, I imagine the Japanese island's residents waddling out of ramen shops warmed and satiated, but with heightened cholesterol levels.

I've also never been to any of the restaurants from the Tsujita empire in LA. I mention Tsujita because Toshimasa Sano—the young chef at the center of Ramen & Tsukemen TAO—is said to have come from the original Tsujita in Tokyo. He worked there 10 years before moving here to start this venture. And if you compare TAO's menu to Tsujita's, you'd have to conclude this restaurant is a carbon copy of it down to the cartoon step-by-step instructions on how to eat the tsukemen. This is not a bad thing. Tsujita was slated to open its first Orange County store in South Coast Plaza a few years ago, but those plans were abruptly canceled. Sano's shop is a more-than-adequate consolation prize.

The ramen at TAO comes two ways. In the white miso, Sano uses a thinner noodle, while in the red miso, he breaks out the weighted ramen. He does this to match the flavor. White miso is fermented with rice and tastes milder, thus the thinner strands. Red miso is fermented with grains and has a more assertive umami punch that calls for the chewier stuff. But if you tend to Hoover up your noodles, you might not be able to tell the difference. Past the tell-tale sign of diced green scallions for the white miso and reedy strips for the red, the subtleties can be easily missed.

Sano also adds softened bean sprouts and strips of lacto-fermented bamboo shoots called "menma" into every bowl he produces. If you want a soft-boiled egg, with the yolk exhibiting a familiar jammy texture, he charges an extra $2. If you want to spice up your bowl, you can ask for a $1 scoop of a chile paste called "daruma" that turns your soup into a doppelganger for Malaysian laksa.

You can also add extra pork for $4.50, but it's unnecessary. When the soup itself is essentially a pack of bacon rendered down to a liquid during a 40-hour process, the one piece of chashu will be more than enough. Even if you take out everything else, the soup alone can fill you up as if you ate a full rack of ribs. You need to only look at the frothy bubbles that shimmer on top of the liquid to realize you're about to consume your monthly allotment of melted pig blubber in one sitting. Tucking a napkin over your shirt before slurping is also recommended, as the splatter will leave oil stains.

The best application of the soup is as a dipping sauce for the tsukemen, the restaurant's signature dish. In this form, the liquid tastes slightly sweeter than the usual broth, with more chashu and veggies hidden in its depths. It's also thicker, but not by much. The real difference comes with the noodles, which are chilled and served with a lime wedge and a sheet of nori. As soon as I bit into them, I experienced a bubble-gum chew that was absent in the red miso ramen. These were the noodles at their most resilient.

After you chew your last strand, you can ask for some "soup wari" to dilute the rest of your leftover dipping sauce. Thinning it with the ramen-pasta water finally renders TAO's broth into something resembling normal soup. Afterward, you'll likely be so full you won't want anything but ice water. This is probably why when you order one of the three rice bowls (a.k.a. dons), it comes at the beginning.

The chashu don—bits of chopped pork spread over rice with charred scallions—is worthy of its own restaurant. I also contend that TAO's spicy-tuna don runs laps around any poke bowl. Besides being a great appetizer, the fish dish also possesses some omega-3 fatty acids in case you want to slightly counteract all the saturated fat in the ramen. Note that I did say "slightly." Don't kid yourself. Eating here means you're saying, "screw it" to your general heart health for at least a week.

RAMEN & TSUKEMEN TAO
10488 Valley View St., Buena Park, (714) 699-1078. Open Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5-11 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Ramen and tsukemen, $9.95-$13.95; dons, $3.50-$3.99. No alcohol.

WHAT THE ALE
» GREG NAGEL

Black Tuesday Resurgence

There was a time when I was a proud Bruery Reserve Society member. But, like many, I had begun to craft subrooms in my office out of Bruery boxes full of beer, so I didn't renew. "If you only had a smaller format bottle," I once said to Bruery founder Patrick Rue.

"Maybe if you had a Terreux-focused Reserve Society, I would join that," I mentioned sometime later as my palate shifted from the big and boozy bourbon variants.

And as a last ditch effort, I remarked, "Perhaps if you canned Black Tuesday and other big beers, I would return."

I must have rubbed the right genie lamp because, in 2019, all of these things are finally a reality.

Even though I still have several cases of various vintages and treatments of Black Tuesday tucked away, when I recently scraped the black wax off the last of my 2010s, it tasted as though it cellared well. "Should I buy more?" I thought, checking my bank account.

Seeing the new cans of the 19-plus percent ABV bourbon-barrel-aged stout somehow gives the beer a fresh perspective. "I could possibly come a can on a weeknight and not cry to my friends, telling them I love them at 3 a.m.," I thought. "I can possibly pack a picnic with a can, various cheeses and charcuterie, and have a lovely day on the beach." Hell, I wouldn't feel awkward with a can next to me while sitting on a chaise longue by a hotel pool.

"We've definitely seen a resurgence of interest in the beer," says the Bruery's events coordinator, Ryan Dick, at the latest Black Tuesday release party. It's still big and bold, beaming with notes of caramel, chocolate truffles, vanilla and, of course, plenty of chewy bourbon oak on the finish. Although bottles and cans are officially sold out, I'm sure the tasting rooms will be pouring it (and its variants) until it's all gone.

Taste it at the Bruery or Bruery Terreux. And to guarantee your spot to buy some next year, check out reserve.thebruery.com.

THE BRUERY
717 Dunn Way, Placentia, (714) 996-6258, also at Bruery Terreux, 1174 N. Grove, Anaheim, (714) 905-7361, www.thebruery.com

Homemade German food
The beer is great - and so is the food!
Over 39 years in Anaheim!
7 days a week for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
•Dine-in • Offsite Catering
• Orders to-go!

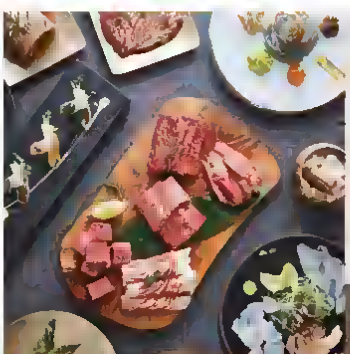
Accepting reservations for Thanksgiving Day!
We're serving a Thanksgiving Day Feast, or a selection of our classic entrées, or our famous Christmas Goose (Weihnachtsgans) in case turkey isn't your thing (we get that a lot.) Reserve your preferred time today!
Breakfast 8am-11am, dinner 'til 7pm

Book your holiday party soon! No Extra charge to use our Banquet room

Jägerhaus
German Restaurant
714-520-9500
www.Jagerhaus.net
2125 E Ball Rd at 57 Fwy.
Anaheim, CA 92806
Sandie@Jagerhaus.net
facebook.com/JagerhausRestaurant

OC WEEKLY'S CURATION OF THE LATEST **FOOD** & **DRINK** NEWS OF THE WEEK, COMPLETE WITH **RESTAURANT REVIEWS** & **EVENT PICKS**

CHECK OUT
OCWEEKLY.COM/CATEGORY/RESTAURANTS/



경복궁
KYUNG BOK KUNG
KOREAN BBQ
High quality Korean BBQ with 25 years of history
714-888-4948
7801 Beach Blvd Buena Park CA 90620
www.kyungbokkungusa.com

삿뽀로
SAPPORO
SUSHI&GRILL
Thurs, Fri and Saturday extended hours until 1AM
-NEW IZAKAYA MENU-
714-670-7776
5401 Beach Blvd Buena Park CA 90621
www.sapporousa.us

ENDLESS OPTIONS

PHOTOS BY ERIN DEWITT

All About That Bowl

Make it your own at Plancha Latin Kitchen

LONG BEACH LUNCH
» ERIN DEWITT

As customizable, choose-your-own dishes pop up, sometimes even as entire restaurant concepts, it's fun to watch how eateries put their own spin on the trend. For instance, at the recently opened Plancha Latin Kitchen in the Long Beach Exchange, about half of its menu is dedicated to "Layer Your Flavor" bowls.

The eatery's mantra reads, "We hope to feed all who enter our door with the same love you feel at home." And with the easy ability to pick and choose exactly what you want and just how you want it, what you get is a very comfortable, casual, as-you-like-it atmosphere. Plus, there are many options for those with gluten-free and vegetarian diets.

Start out with one of the Bocaditos (appetizers), such as the house-made escabeche, a bracingly addictive jumble of pickled and spiced vegetables and peppers. Then check out such house specialties as the Cubano sandwich, which is offered in either a traditional pork-and-Swiss style or a California version that comes with chicken and charred vegetables (broccoli?) and smeared with a bright-green sauce.

However, the arepas are Plancha's best dish. Available in beef-and-beet and soyrizo versions, each comes as a flavor-punched mini mountain. The standard arepa is served as a towering mound of pink-cabbage slaw and white, melty cheese sauce. Start digging, and you'll find cool beets, exceptionally tender beef and dots of green peas, all stacked on two thick, sweet corn pancakes.

But Plancha is ultimately all about the bowls, with multiple options for each of the five layers. The sheer number of possible combinations is a little daunting—mostly because everything looks so damn good! How do you choose between the mojo d'ajo (citrus-and-garlic shrimp) and the ropa vieja (shredded beef with red wine, tomato and onion)? And then there are the salsas (charred red! mango!) and sauces—Peruvian green, aji chile, sofrito, crema, chimichurri ... If it's just too much, try one of Plancha's pre-formulated creations, the Pescado Veracruz, for example, comes with rice, black beans, tomatoes, capers, jalapeños, seasonal fish and cilantro.

You can order at the counter, but if you need some time with the menu, you can sit down with a pen and paper card and get to work designing your bowl, then pay the server directly when they take your order. Though only open two days at the time of my visit, the staff were already very knowledgeable, explaining the menu and even making suggestions.

Whichever direction you go with your bowl, look for items with texture—snappy shrimp, crispy garbanzo beans, crunchy chicharron, etc.—because while all components offered have layered, deep flavors, they also tend to be on the soft side.

Plancha's food comes out pretty fast, with staff continually checking up, bringing extra napkins and seeing if you need any extra sauces. And they'll happily provide to-go packaging once you realize you've ordered way too much food to possibly consume in one sitting.

PLANCHA LATIN KITCHEN
3860 Worsham Ave., Ste. 300, Long Beach, planchalatinkitchen.com

PHOTOS BY GREG NAGEL

Cornucopia

Olea in Newport Beach goes fall

EAT & DRINK THIS NOW
» GREG NAGEL

Writing about food in 2019 is sort of like being on Tinder, as the thought of returning to a place where you hooked up with a few plates of food feels like dippin' in the old well. Doing what I do, it's very hard to fall in love with a place, even if it's right down the street and treats you right.

But one place I truly miss after a month or so of dining around is Olea in Newport Beach. The menu, cocktails and service greet me like an excited dog at the door after a lengthy vacation.

The restaurant is resort-casual, with plenty of cushy booths and tables surrounding the central bar, with real logs transported to the ceiling. The combination of natural and modern elements lend a cool Ansel Adams-style camera obscura vibe, complete with Northern California wine bottles adorning the wall.

But for most, the sexiest thing about Olea is the menu, which is hard not to read in a sultry Barry White voice. But does all that deliciousness on paper translate to the plate? *Ohhh, yeah.*

There are eye-catching items such as grapevine-smoked-salmon deviled eggs, duck terrine with bourbon and bacon, and blue crab baked oysters with Champagne tarragon butter. The level of detail adding subtle comfort foods to staples is perhaps its strongest point.

Those simple-sounding deviled eggs beg to be drawn like a French girl, as an unexpected scoop of black tobiko caviar and pink-pickled onion sit atop each like one of Marie Antoinette's hats. The satisfying crunch of the roe mixes with a hint of smokiness from the salmon that coats your palate with bursts of umami, making each bite a sushi-roll-like experience. This alone could be dinner if you were flying solo at the bar.

Olea's menu is currently in the thick of autumn, and the Oktoberfest vibe I got from the crispy Jidori chicken schnitzel with maitake mushrooms had a good chance of scratching my German itch. The fowl is pounded thin enough to be the size of a kid's baseball mitt, yet it has an unmistakable crunch that could be heard from a table over. A drizzle of whole-grain-mustard gravy helps to soften up the top, and the spaetzle on the bottom, made with butternut squash, has a dumpling-esque mouthfeel that ties it all together.

The core cocktails don't change nearly as much as longtime bartender Inga Tantisalidchai's hair color does, which is kind of cool, the drinks she makes are extremely consistent and tasty. If you're down for her monthly whim, go in time to grab her 7th Inning Stretch, a nutty twist on a whiskey sour. The drink mixes Gentleman Jack, Frangelico, cocoa and macadamia bitters and is rimmed to perfection with black onyx chocolate sugar floating on an imperial porter beer. It's garnished with a gentleman's note that changes from drink to drink. A recent note read, "Only trust people that like big butts . . . They cannot lie." Sir Mix-a-Lot would be proud.

OLEA
2001 Westcliff Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 287-6807, oleanewportbeach.com

Hi-Time Wine Cellars
250 Ogle Street • Costa Mesa
(behind Staples on 17th St.)
949.650.8463 • www.hitimewine.net

THIS WEEK— FOR FULL MONTHLY SCHEDULE & SPECIAL EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT HITIMEWINE.NET CHEERS!

THURSDAY, NOV 7, 4:30-8PM • Top Wines of 2019
Our favorite wines from Austria & Germany $25

FRIDAY, NOV 8, 4:30-8PM • Spottswoode
A 'crown jewel' estate and winery in Napa Valley $45

SATURDAY, NOV 9, 2-8PM • Burgundy
Mostly red (Pinot Noir) with perhaps a white (Chardonnay) wine or two to start with, always a fantastic event! $40

Real Housewives of Weirdsville

The oddball humor of *Greener Grass* sends up suburbia

BY AIMEE MURILLO

COURTESY OF VANISHING ANGLE

Early on in the film *Greener Grass*, there's a scene that sums up its absurdist humor two moms, Jill (Jocelyn DeBoer) and Lisa (Dawn Luebbe), are having a light conversation in the bleachers while watching their children's soccer game. Clad in *Stepford Wives*-esque apparel, with Jill in all pink and Lisa in all blue, Lisa compliments Jill on the new baby in her arms, she does this with the same surprised tone as she would if she suddenly noticed a new set of earrings, despite Jill having held the baby for the entirety of the game. Jill expresses her gratitude, and then, after a pause, offers Lisa the infant. A couple of polite refusals of the "oh, no, I couldn't!" variety ensue before Lisa relents and Jill hands over the baby

From there, you become aware this film operates on some bizarre, wacky plane of comedy akin to the films of John Waters and the work of Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim. DeBoer and Luebbe, who co-wrote and co-directed *Greener Grass*, clearly aim to send up suburban living by looking at it through a fun-house mirror. In their nameless, upper-class town, adults wear braces, everyone embraces pastel-colored wardrobes, women give birth to soccer balls, children turn into animals and television shows such as *Bald Men and Bouquets* make for wholesome programming. This is the world they have crafted, and there isn't a minute that rolls by where something ridiculous isn't said or done. Instead of the shtick feeling tired and gimmicky, Luebbe and DeBoer's script consistently surprises with its unrelenting weirdness.

Greener Grass revolves around Jill and Lisa and their daily struggles to maintain the façade of perfection. In her limitless pink outfits, Jill works hard to care for her marriage with her husband, Nick (Beck Bennett), but she works even harder at making her 7-year-old kid, Juhan, resemble the perfect son, even as he displays through his awful piano recital and, to a larger extent, by turning into a golden retriever at a birthday party that he's not. The baby that she handed off—originally named Madison but renamed Page by Lisa—makes a through-line in the film.

Lisa similarly struggles with keeping her son, Bob, focused on school and activities, but she has a bigger struggle maintaining her romantic connection to her husband, Dennis (Neal Casey)

The two women fraternize with each other, and their wavering camaraderie shows their underlying rivalry to be the queen bee in their social circle Meanwhile, an unknown lurker has been stealing the wardrobes of women in the town, causing paranoia among the residents

DeBoer and Luebbe are both Upright Citizens Brigade regulars, so, natch, they play off each other well like an extreme tennis match. Their characters display the perfect pitch of perkiness mixed in with confusion and anxiety Separately, Jill is a ball of good intentions while Lisa is the more self-conscious one. Their sunny dispositions are leveled by the pastel color scheme, bright-blue skies and synth-laden soundtrack that gives an aura of suburban paradise

While all these elements are aesthetically calming, the main draw of *Greener Grass* is the absurd, outrageous things that pop up every few minutes: Young Bob becomes entranced, then possessed by a television show called *Kids With Knives* (about children exposed to random cutlery for no reason). In a temper tantrum triggered by being told he has to go to school, Juhan claps back at his mother, "YOU'RE a school! 'Look at me! I'm a school! I have all these classrooms inside me!'" (it's his delivery of that line that cracks me up the most) And Nick becomes obsessed with a new water-filtration system that takes the chlorine out of pool water, and he drinks it nonstop

The film obviously pokes fun at the inanities of the members of the upper-middle class, as well as the ridiculous lengths to which they'll go to maintain an image. Or it could be that one person's idea of perfection is a prison to another Either way, *Greener Grass* is perhaps one of the most offbeat films to deliver that message, through such moments as two braces-filled mouths swapping spit for two minutes before someone says, "Whoops! Wrong husband!" A cathartically gross, unusual comedy for our times, indeed.

AMURILLO@OCWEEKLY.COM

GREENER GRASS was written and directed by and stars Jocelyn DeBoer and Dawn Luebbe.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

» MATT COKER

The Trouble With Wolves. Once exterminated in the lower 48 states, the gray wolf triumphantly returned to Yellowstone and surrounding states, but as Colin Monda's 2018 documentary shows, not everyone hailed that as a conservation success story *The Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, thefridacinema.org Fri., 7 p.m. Free.*

Fantastic Fungi. Louie Schwartzberg's new documentary is about the organism that feeds you, heals you and contains secrets of the universe that may help save the planet. *Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435. Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m. $9-$10.*

A Boy's Dream. Walther Grotenhuis and Cinta Forger's 2015 documentary is on Theo Jansen, a Dutch artist who creates large-scale "beach animals" that move independently, powered by the wind. *Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Dr., Laguna Beach, (949) 494-8971 Sat., 11:30 a.m. Free with museum admission ($5-$7; museum members/kids aged 17 and younger, free).*

A Night With Janis Joplin. It's a filmed performance of David Horn and Randy Johnson's Broadway musical on the electrifying singer (played by Tony nominee Mary Bridget Davies) who became the queen of rock & roll in almost one night. *Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Laguna Niguel at Ocean Ranch Village, 32401 Golden Lantern St., Laguna Niguel, (949) 373-7900; also at Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Rancho Santa Margarita at Santa Margarita Town Center, 30632 Santa Margarita Pkwy., Rancho Santa Margarita, (949) 635-1888. Mon., 7 p.m. $10.*

The Crying of Tanbur. The UC Irvine Humanities Center and European Languages and Studies' Borders and Belonging: A Film Series, which explores migration, integration and transformation in the European context, continues with Anisa Sabin's 2018 drama. A boy gets caught up in the horror of the little-known civil war that broke out in Tajikistan with the collapse of the Soviet Union. *UCI, McCormack Screening Room, Humanities Gateway 1070, Irvine (949) 824-6117 Tues., 5:30 p.m. Free.*

Citizen Kane. Orson Welles' 1941 classic which has topped many best American pictures lists has reporters unraveling the life of publishing tycoon Charles Foster Kane (Welles) so they can explain his final utterance "Rosebud." *Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Laguna Niguel at Ocean Ranch Village, (949) 373-7900; also at Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Rancho Santa Margarita at Santa Margarita Town Center, (949) 635-1888. Tues., 7 p.m. $10.*

KONOSUBA—God's Blessing on This Wonderful World!—Legend of Crimson. In Takaomi Kanasaki's new anime, Kazuma's party is summoned to the Crimson Demon Clan's village, where an enemy general's arrival spells trouble. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Tues. & Thurs., Nov. 14, 7 p.m. $15.*

Shakira in Concert: El Dorado World Tour. Directed by Shakira and James Merryman, the rockumentary relives the global superstar's larger-than-life show that was mounted in 22 countries—after a vocal-cord injury foiled a previous attempt. *Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Laguna Niguel at Ocean Ranch Village, (949) 373-7900; also at Cinepolis Luxury Cinemas Rancho Santa Margarita at Santa Margarita Town Center (949) 635-1888. Wed., 7 p.m. $18.50-$20.50.*

Spears From All Sides. Cinema Orange, the collaboration between Orange County Museum of Art and the Newport Beach Film Festival, presents Christopher Walker's new documentary on the battle between the Waorani tribe and the Ecuadorian government and oil companies. *OCMAExpand, 1661 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, ocmaexpand.org Thurs., Nov. 14, 7 p.m. Free, but RSVP to guarantee a seat.*

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF IPSO FACTO ILLUSTRATION BY FEDERICO MEDINA

Gothy Cultural Ambassador

Celebrating 30 years of Ipso Facto in downtown Fullerton

BY LISA BLACK

Tern Kennedy has presided over Ipso Facto since 1989. With the help of staunch allies and a legion of loyal customers, the shop continues to be a Goth mecca, evolving alongside the term itself. "The Gothic scene is so much more than fashion," says Kennedy, "as it embraces and champions all forms of creativity and expression including visual art, music, culture, history and knowledge."

A celebratory bash incorporating all of that—plus, perhaps, a bit of the supernatural—happens Sunday, with giveaways, $5 tarot readings by Carl Young, and a live set by local band the Shrouds.

"My friend Morticia recommended Shrouds to me when I was seeking a band for this year's event," says the onetime Goth band vocalist. "I knew the members from other projects, and they frequent Ipso Facto regularly." Since forming in 2017, Ana Thema (vocals/guitar), Grimm Beatz (percussion/backup vox) and Ludwig Wilde (bass) have adhered to a bare-bones minimalism while being inspired by their 1980s predecessors. "Their sound is an amazing throwback to the early death rock sound that I love," adds Kennedy, "like Super Heroines, Christian Death and Kommunity FK!"

If not strictly for the band, show up for the free swag from brands Ipso Facto has carried since its opening, including hair dye by Manic Panic, which was originally a brick-and-mortar in New York's East Village. Sisters Tish and Snooky Bellomo opened their glam/punk-rock boutique in 1977, after a short stint as backup singers for Blondie—though they continued scouring thrift-stores with Debbie Harry.

"I was never in any famous bands, but I did tour, record and release CDs sold around the world," says Kennedy about the 12 years fronting Stone 588. "Of course, I've always tried to support local bands and music, and through my trips to Europe, we were the first shop in the area to offer CDs of bands like Wumpscut and Das Ich."

While the Manic Panic store, which opened on St. Marks Place when it was a junkies' wasteland, shuttered to gentrification, Ipso Facto is on solid ground across from the Fox Theater and Angelo's and Vinci's—though that ground was once vulnerable to deluge. The river that rushed behind Ipso's 1929 building was prone to horrific flooding, leading to scores of drownings until the Fullerton dam was completed in 1941.

Kennedy tells tales of mediums entering the shop for the first time and immediately asking if she knows she has a little girl ghost. She does. The youthful spirit has been known to tickle the ankles of ladder-climbing clerks.

The poltergeist and tourist ghosts dropping by, the music, and the mostly black merch are all part of the story. But the key to Ipso Facto's longevity is Kennedy herself; she has the gracious authenticity of someone who wouldn't want to be doing anything else.

"Ipso Facto was conceived as an outlet for my creativity," she says. "I am tenacious and not principally motivated by money. Always learning new things, I do my own repairs, website, social media, photography [and] accounting, while [my long-serving] manager runs the store, handles computer tech, and helps with my crazy renovation and creative projects. Longtime friend Bob Medeiros, who invested in Ipso Facto early on, still stops in from time to time."

While her straight-across bangs and waist-length black hair remain consistent, Kennedy evolves with her beloved scene. Her thirst for knowledge is equaled by her desire to share it. "Now is the time that small shops like mine are taking cues from independent bookstores, hosting community events and workshops that bring people in, such as our monthly wire-wrapping jewelry classes taught by friend Margga [Markowitz], which always sell out, and metaphysical classes presented by various practitioner/teachers."

In addition to Young, her mentor in spirituality, Kennedy has known Dr. James Rietveld since his student days in 1990. "He would stop by Ipso Facto and regale me with stories and talk about history, mythology and world religions."

In 2014, she began hosting free talks by her friend. "There are many people, like me, who may not have gotten the education they desired, and I believe that these lectures provide an important source for knowledge in the community, with our shop as a haven for culture and intellectual discourse."

And every 10 years or so, she throws kick-ass, inclusive parties.

"It is important to have all-ages events, so younger customers can participate in the scene. I love dressing people for their first visit to a Goth club," says the self-proclaimed "Gothy Cultural Ambassador." After the party, "there will be plenty of evening left to prowl the nearby restaurants and watering holes and attend Anaheim's local Goth club, the Chamber."

LBLACK@OCWEEKLY.COM

IPSO FACTO 30TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY
517 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, (714) 525-7865, www.ipso-facto.com. Sun., 8 p.m. Free. All ages.

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

Nov. 8-14

SUGAR PLUM ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL: More than 150 local artists will present holiday-centric handmade goods along with items to craft your own. Fri., 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Free. OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. (714) 708-1500. sugarplumfestivals.com.

***OEDIPUS EL REY*:** In this modern take on Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* play, a young Latino hopes to fulfill his destiny in his urban town. Thurs.–Sat., 8 p.m. Through Nov. 16. $5–$10. Clayes Performing Art Center, 800 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton, (657) 278-3371. www.fullerton.edu.

HOOT 'N HOWLING NIGHT HIKE: Bring some warm clothes for this ranger-led trek, during which guests will learn the many natural wonders that can only be seen at night. Hot cocoa and cookies will be provided. Sat., 5:30 p.m. Free, registration required. Carbon Canyon Regional Park, 4442 Carbon Canyon Rd., Brea. (714) 973-3160. www.ocparks.com.

"MUTATIONS A GROTESQUE GROUP SHOW": More than 15 artists will present new fantastical paintings of monsters and creatures. Sat., 7 p.m. Free. Dark Art Emporium, 256 Elm Ave., Long Beach. (562) 612-1118. darkartemporium.com.

THE COAST VINTAGE MARKET: Vintage vendors, classic cars, music, food trucks and more will be at this giant flea market. Sun., 8 a.m. Free. Saddleback College, 28000 Marguerite Pkwy., Mission Viejo. (949) 381-9947. www.thecoastvintagemarket.com.

PUBLIC READING BY DAVID HENRY HWANG: The *M. Butterfly* playwright joins a symposium on his work, with Esther Kim Lee, Julia Lee and Daphne Lei. Thurs., Nov. 14, 5 p.m. Free with RSVP. Crystal Cove Auditorium at UCI Student Center, 311 W. Peltason Dr., Irvine. illuminations.uci.edu.

***GOD OF CARNAGE*:** Two sets of parents get together to discuss a recent fight between their kids, and the night escalates into chaos. Thurs., Fri., 7:30 p.m. Sat., 2 & 7:30 p.m. Sun., 2 p.m. Through Nov. 17. $15–$25. Grand Central Art Center, 125 N. Broadway, Ste. E, Santa Ana. (657) 205-6273. thewaywardartist.org.

THIRSTY THURSDAY, FEATURING PATTI STANGER AND JEFF LEWIS: Who knows what comadic insanity will arise when the stars of Bravo's *The Millionaire Matchmaker* and *Flipping Out* come together. Thurs., Nov. 14, 8 p.m. $45–$95. 18+. Brea Improv, 160 S. Brea Blvd., Brea. (714) 482-1700. improv.com/brea.

FROM LEFT JESSE NAVARRO GLENN ROSS

Rebel With a Cause

Michael Ubaldini commemorates 20 years of *Acoustic Rumble*

BY STEVE DONOFRIO

When Michael Ubaldini released his debut solo album, *Acoustic Rumble*, in 1999, he inspired countless other songwriters to embrace their inner folk singer. While the majority of Orange County was steeped in pop punk, hardcore and indie rock, Ubaldini was playing stripped-down, insightful songs on his guitar.

For fellow OC singer/songwriter Chris Cruz, *Acoustic Rumble* marked a turning point in his own musical endeavors. "When I saw Michael's performance, I could see a future for myself," Cruz says. "While Michael played solo acoustic, there was angst and power. I thought to myself, 'Wow, you can do that with an acoustic guitar?'"

In celebration of *Acoustic Rumble*'s 20th anniversary, Ubaldini is rereleasing his groundbreaking album this month on online platforms, CD and eventually vinyl.

Before embarking on a solo career, he was a member of the short-lived OC punk band the Earwigs. But their distinctive sound showcased signs of Ubaldini's skills as a songwriter. "We used to play the Cuckoo's Nest and stuff like that," Ubaldini recalls. "We did that, made a single, and the band broke up—typical story, you know? But the thing is, we were a little different. I always liked a lot of roots music, and I liked a lot of '60s garage [music], so it kind of gave us our own little niche at the time."

With his next project, Mystery Train, Ubaldini incorporated more folk and roots influences. The band, which Ubaldini says was playing Americana long before the genre had become widely popularized, landed a record deal with EMI. According to Ubaldini, Stray Cats bassist Lee Rocker produced the album, which featured a guest appearance from Rocker's band mate, vocalist/guitarist Brian Setzer, who had attended some of Ubaldini's shows alongside late ex-Clash front man Joe Strummer. "[Setzer] was like, 'Let me play a song, man. Pour me a shot, and I'll play something,'" Ubaldini recalls. "It actually struck me when I was playing a show one night when Setzer got up and played and Strummer was there. It just hit me, like, 'God, I used to buy these guys' records.' It was surreal."

Mystery Train would also soon dissolve, leading Ubaldini to dig deeper into his folk background. He started writing songs influenced by a childhood listening to the likes of Hank Williams and Ray Charles. "I was writing these songs that had more reflective lyrics," he says. "Even though the [Mystery Train] songs were written kind of poetically, these ones were more intense, and I knew that the band wouldn't want to do that type of stuff. So I just said, 'Shit, I'm rooted in folk music, I'm just going to make a record like that.'"

And thus, *Acoustic Rumble* was born. "I wanted to do it old-school, like the way early [Bob] Dylan records were," Ubaldini explains. "And Woody Guthrie's stuff, or even the earlier guys—how they'd sit there with a guitar and sing and play at the same time. I wanted to keep the rawness from the roots I had grown up with."

Consequently, the album is sonically bare bones, with minimal extra tracking—the only overdubs that can be heard are the occasional tambourine, second acoustic guitar or harmonica.

While the album is musically straightforward, *Acoustic Rumble*'s true depth comes from Ubaldini's timeless, insightful lyrics. His rebellious delivery bears traces of Strummer, Guthrie and Billy Bragg, especially on the song "Badge of Freedom," in which he inquires, "Oh, Mr. President, do you see the homeless man? Do you see the sad-eyed children digging food out of the trash can?"

"I don't really consider myself writing political songs," Ubaldini says. "I look at it more like a mirror held up to society. I even condemn myself in 'The Seventh Trumpet' because I like that Michelangelo painting *The Last Judgement*, where his self-portrait is him being condemned with the rest of the people."

While part of the catalyst for a 20th-anniversary edition of *Acoustic Rumble* is the cult following the album has gained in the indie singer/songwriter scene over the years, Ubaldini feels its songs are relevant to our current time and place. "I think the songs kind of resonate even more now," he says. "Like, they sound current in a weird way. ... Cool folk music does that—it sounds old and new at the same time."

The reissue also includes two bonus tracks. "I write a lot!" he says with a laugh. "Like, all the time." At the beginning of the year, Ubaldini released *The Song of Our Time*, 12 original tracks that tackle issues such as free speech and media brainwashing.

Plus, he claims to have another album recorded and ready to be released at a future date.

When Ubaldini isn't adding to his expansive solo catalog, he's supporting his fellow songwriters by hosting "The Outlaws of Folk Music Series," a decade-or-so-old series that provides an environment for like-minded musicians to congregate and perform. Though it started in Orange County, it has expanded in recent years to Long Beach and East Hollywood. "I feel like I'm giving back a little bit," he says. "Just trying to help us all out."

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

Learn more about Michael Ubaldini at www.rocknrollpoet.com.

ANDREW NOEL

Friday

ABBEY ROAD—TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES: 7 p.m., free, all ages. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-7469; slidebarfullerton.com.

AT THE JIVE-IN—1950S RECORD HOP DANCE PARTY: 8 p.m., $10, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, alexsbar.com.

B.I.G.: 8 p.m., $10, all ages. Campus Jax, 3950 Campus Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 261-6270, campusjax.com.

MIAMI HORROR; ARGONAUT & WASP: 8 p.m., $20, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, observatoryoc.com.

SCOTT BUSSO OF UNWRITTEN LAW: 7 p.m., $10, 21+. Gallagher's Pub, 300 Pacific Coast Hwy., Ste. 113, Huntington Beach, (714) 951-9229, gallagherspubhb.com.

SMOOTH HOUND SMITH, LYDIA LUCE, VICTORIA BAILEY: 8 p.m., $10, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0038; wayfarercm.com.

SUPER DIAMOND—THE NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE BAND, WAYWARD SONS: 8 p.m., $25, all ages. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930; thecoachhouse.com.

WITH CONFIDENCE—THE LOVE AND LOATHING TOUR: 7 p.m., $16, all ages. Chain Reaction, 1652 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 535-8057; allages.com.

Saturday

AN EVENING WITH SLOAN: 8 p.m., $20, all ages. Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; observatoryoc.com.

FIRECRACKER 500, MESA LANES: 8 p.m., $5, 21+. Gallagher's Pub, gallagherspubhb.com.

FLASHBACK HEART ATTACK: 8 p.m., $16, all ages. Campus Jax, campusjax.com.

HEART & MAC—BACK TO BACK, FEATURING DOG N' BUTTERFLY & MIRAGE: 8 p.m., $20, all ages. The Coach House, thecoachhouse.com.

JUST PRETENDING—TRIBUTE TO THE PRETENDERS: 7 p.m., free, all ages. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, slidebarfullerton.com.

DUB LAST NIGHT, I SEE STARS, THE WORD ALIVE, ASHLAND: 6 p.m., $25, all ages. The Observatory, observatoryoc.com.

RADKEY, THE LINE, TIJUANA KNIFE FIGHT, RATS IN THE LOUVRE: 8 p.m., $10, 21+. Alex's Bar, alexsbar.com.

SHAWN JAMES, SAM HOUSTON, BLK DDYSSY: 8 p.m., $15, all ages. Chain Reaction, allages.com.

TOXICITY—TRIBUTE TO SYSTEM OF A DOWN: 8 p.m., $8-$10, 21+. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, slidebarfullerton.com.

Sunday

AN EVENING WITH LEANN MIMES: 4 p.m., $53, all ages. Musco Center for the Arts, 415 N. Glassell, Orange, (844) 626-8726; www.muscocenter.org.

DAVID WILCOX, BRDORE RAMEL: 7 p.m., $25, all ages. The Coach House, thecoachhouse.com.

DEMIVOIX, FRAGMENTS, SOMETHING CAME UP, CALRATS: 8 p.m., $5, 21+. Alex's Bar, alexsbar.com.

GREG VAIL BIRTHDAY JAZZ JAM: 5 p.m., free, all ages. Campus Jax, campusjax.com.

HELMET: 7 p.m., $20, all ages. Chain Reaction, allages.com.

TURN THE PAGE—TRIBUTE TO BOB SEGER: 5 p.m., free, all ages. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, slidebarfullerton.com.

Monday

FRAMEWORK, THE CLAIRES, GENDERFUCK: 8:30 p.m., free, all ages. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com.

DYLAN CLEVENGER: 8:30 p.m., free, all ages. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com.

LAKOTA INDIAN BENEFIT JAM WITH THE ZIPPERS: 4 p.m., $10 donation, all ages. Campus Jax; campusjax.com.

Tuesday

FRANKIE COSMOS, DEAR NORA, STEPHEN STEINBRINK. 7 p.m., $17, all ages. Chain Reaction, allages.com.

KELLY RAE TRIO: 7 p.m., free, all ages. Campus Jax; campusjax.com.

Wednesday

BEGINNERS, LAURELINE, TEMME SCOTT: 8:30 p.m., $8, 21+. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com.

THE BVB, NUMB ER. 8 p.m., $12, all ages. Constellation Room, observatoryoc.com.

MAX BEMIS, PERMA, MUSEUM MOUTH: 7 p.m., $20, all ages. Chain Reaction, allages.com.

TIKTAALIK, COPAN: 8 p.m., $5, 21+. Alex's Bar, alexsbar.com.

TIM REYNOLDS, TR3, TOM GRIEBORABER: 8 p.m., $20, all ages. The Coach House, thecoachhouse.com.

Thursday, Nov. 14

CAVE IN, HELMS ALEE, THE PMMALS, PAINTED WIVES: 7 p.m., $21, all ages. Chain Reaction, allages.com.

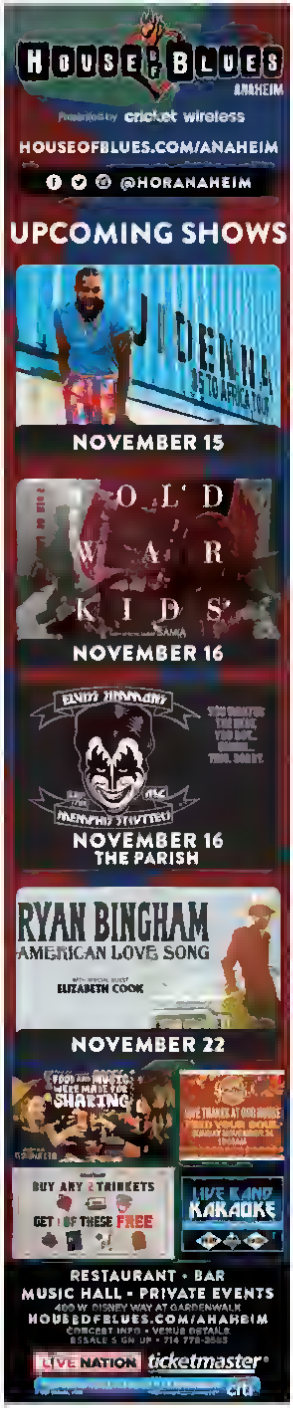
FILMSPEED, WETWOOD SMOKES: 8 p.m., $10, 21+. Alex's Bar, alexsbar.com.

JANE MONHEIT: 8 p.m., $30, all ages. The Coach House, thecoachhouse.com.

KEUNING, THE JACKS, SWEET NOBODY: 7:30 p.m., $15, 21+. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com.

SIMPLE CREATURES: 8 p.m., $21-$41.75, all ages. The Observatory, observatoryoc.com.

TERENCE LOVE'S "STEAMERS JAZZ AT JAX" WITH DEBBI EBERT AND RON BRAYASHI: 7 p.m., $5, all ages. Campus Jax, campusjax.com



ORANGE COUNTY
SANTA ANA
CANNABIS CLUB
Take Some Time to Smell the Flowers
20% SINGLE PRICED ITEM
3122 SOUTH HALLADAY STREET
SANTA ANA CA 92705
OC3DISPENSARY.COM
@OC3_CANNAGROUP
VALID 12/31/19 RESTRICTIONS APPLY
OC WEEKLY
BEST OF
READERS' POLL
WINNER
2019
C10-0000207-LIC

Toke of the Week

» JEFFERSON VANBILLIARD

3 Bros Grow's Twizzlaz

COURTESY OF 3 BROS GROW

Dear Cannabis: I want to take this opportunity, on the 10-year anniversary of our relationship, to tell you how much you mean to me. The instant our eyes met from across the room, we both knew there was a connection. I can still remember how your gorgeous, orange-tinted trichomes seemed to illuminate the entire room, filling the immediate area with your delectable lemon-and-skunk-scented haze. There were other people drinking, smoking and talking to you and I, but it was as if we were the only two in the room. Up to that point, I'd never experienced a state of relaxation so strong nor had food tasted so good. I even recall the way you made music, being in social settings and just sitting quietly better. That night, we laughed, we shared stories about life, and then, just as quickly as you had arrived, you were gone. It took me several days to get over the night we had spent together, and I know we promised to keep it a secret, but I can't anymore. I love you, and I don't care who knows.

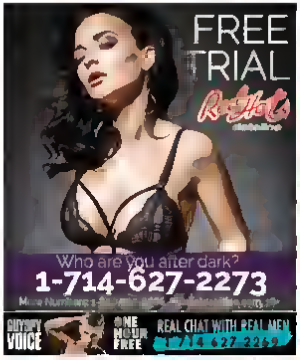
Now on to our regularly scheduled Toke of the Week. A family owned-and-operated cultivation brand from Santa Cruz, 3 Bros Grow (*3brosgrow.com*) starts its sustainable growing process outside, then moves plants into a controlled, indoor environment to begin flowering and reach maturity. This not only increases the overall taste, effects and yield, but it also uses fewer resources—a huge plus in California. The company's latest offering, Twizzlaz, is a fruit-filled, cosmetically stunning cross between the well-known Mendo Breath and Purple Punch strains. Besides looking like a model in a beautiful dress walking down the cannabis red carpet, this strain has the ability to bring back that feeling you got the first time you experienced using cannabis. After picking up an eighth ($50), the Hollywood Hills won't be the only thing on fire.

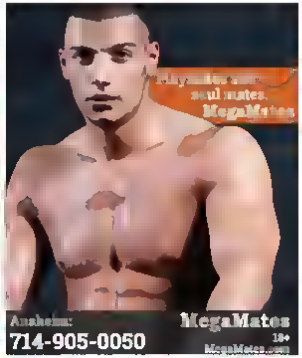
LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

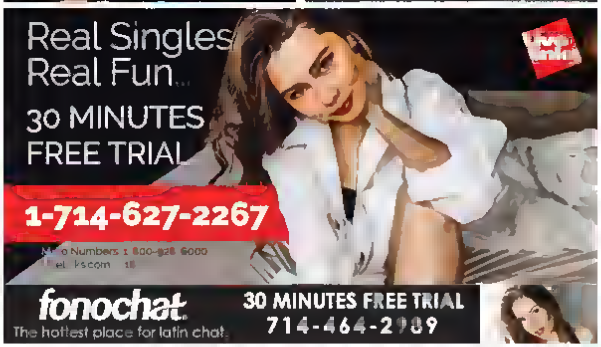
Available at Tropicanna, 1628 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 701-8186.

SEE MORE INDUSTRY NEWS AND REVIEWS AT OCWEEKLY.COM/CANNABIS

BEST OF READERS' POLL WINNER 2019
BEST ADULT STORE
$5 OFF
EVERY $20 SPENT!
PRODUCTION ENDS 11/2 19
MUST PRESENT COUPON FOR OFFER
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR PROMOTION
SPANKYS
ADULT TOYS, LINGERIE, SUPPLEMENTS
NEW RELEASE DVDS! SMOKING PRODUCTS
OPEN 24/7 | 213 N. HARBOR BLVD, SANTA ANA, 92703
714.554.4493 | WWW.SPANKYSONLINE.COM


FREE
TRIAL
Who are you after dark?
1-714-627-2273
ONE HOUR FREE
REAL CHAT WITH REAL MEN

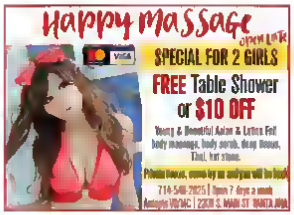

MegaMates
Anaheim:
714-905-0050

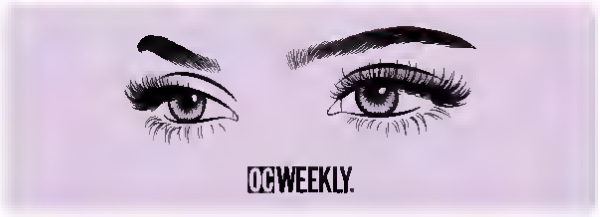

Real Singles
Real Fun...
30 MINUTES
FREE TRIAL
1-714-627-2267
fonochat
The hottest place for latin chat
30 MINUTES FREE TRIAL
714-464-2789

SAHARA
THEATER
FULLY NUDE 18+
NEW VIP SPECIALS!
FREE ADMISSION*
DAY & NIGHT *AD NEEDED FOR FREE ENTRY
*ONE MINIMUM DRINK PURCHASE REQUIRED
Log onto
SAHARATHEATER.XXX
for roll call updates & weekly promotions.
/SAHARATHEATER
@SAHARA_THEATER
714.772.2242
1210 S. STATE COLLEGE BLVD, STE. C., ANAHEIM

TABOO
FREE
ADMISSION
BRING AD FOR ADMISSION
2017
BEST OF
Readers Poll
NOMINEE
OCWEEKLY
BEST OF
NOMINEE
M-F 2PM -2AM
S/S 6PM-2AM
3025 E La Mesa St. Anaheim, CA
714.630.5069
@OFFICIALTABOOBEBTS
18+ FULLY NUDE
HOTTEST SHOWGIRLS IN OC

10 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
FREE
ADMISSION
WITH AD
HAPPY HOUR
MON & THURS OPEN TO CLOSE
TUES, WED & FRIDAY 4PM-8PM
• $3 SHOTS
JACK, JIM, JOSE
• BOTTLE SERVICE
STARTING AT $75
Best Strip Joint
Eden
1189 E. ASH AVE. FULLERTON • 714-447-0691
ADMISSION FREE BEFORE 7PM DAILY
VISA
ATM





OCWEEKLY
CLASSIFIEDS
714.550.5942 | OCWEEKLY.COM | 18475 RANDILIER CIR. FOUNTAIN VALLEY

EMPLOYMENT

Biogreen Unlimited, Inc. DBA Sunrise Supermarket, is in need of 1 Marketing Specialist-Produce. Job location: Fountain Valley. Send resume to 9580 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 Attn: HR

Admin Ofyce Clerk (Garden Grove, CA) Assist admission ofyce administration. Bachelor's in any yeld. Resume to: Frances University 13040 Coast St, Garden Grove, CA 92644

New Testament Professor (Fullerton, CA) Teach new testament courses. PhD in New Testament related. Resume to: Grace Mission University 1645 W Valencia Dr Fullerton CA 92833

OCWEEKLY BULLETIN

WE BUY & SELL SURFBOARDS CHEAP!! ANY SIZE. ANY CONDITION CALL MARK 949-232-2603

WANTED!!

Hot Wheels Johnny Lightning Matchbox Cars
Collector will Pay Top Dollar
(562) 708-9069

Fine Firearms

Call John 949-500-5944 fine-firearms.com

GOT BUDS

Indica, Sativa, Hybrid
Premium Indoor - $200 OZ &
$100 1/2 OZ & $75 OZ
Delivery - 714-737-4965

KINSBURSKY BROTHERS INTERNATIONAL
12S East Commercial Street, Suite A, Anaheim, California

The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) requires the Governor to develop a list of chemicals determined by the state to cause cancer, birth defects or reproductive harm. This law also requires businesses to warn individuals of potential exposure to listed chemicals.

Lead is emitted as a result of battery recycling operations conducted at **Kinsbursky Brothers International** located at 1314 Anaheim Boulevard and 125 East Commercial Street, Suite A, in Anaheim, California (the "facility"). Based on production data, the exposure to lead at off site receptors was below the 0.5 ug/day MADL for lead. We are notifying you to provide for any variations in production that could occur and result in an exposure as shown in the model below.

WARNING! Entering this area can exposure you to chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm, including lead emitted as a result of battery recycling operations. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

For additional information, please contact Mr. Paul Johnson of **Kinsbursky Brothers International** at 714.738.6516

KINSBURSKY BROTNERS INTERNATIONAL
12S East Commercial Street, Suite A, Anaheim, California

La ley de Agua Potable Segura y de Aplicación de Tóxicos de 1986 (Proposición 65) requiere que el Gobernador desarrolle una lista de químicos determinados por el estado como causantes de cáncer, defectos de nacimiento o daños reproductivos. Esta ley también requiere que los negocios adviertan a individuos de exposición potencial de los productos químicos enlistados.

El plomo es emitido como resultado de las operaciones del reciclaje de baterías conducido en **Kinsbursky Brothers International** localizado en 1314 Anaheim Boulevard y 125 East Commercial Street, Edificio A, en Anaheim California (la "instalación"). Basado en los datos de producción, la exposición al plomo en receptores externos estaba por debajo de 0.5µg/día MADL para el plomo. Le estamos notificando para asegurar el porvenir de alguna variación en la producción que pude ocurrir y resultar en una exposición como se muestra en el modelo debajo.

ADVERTENCIA! Entrar a esta área puede exponerlo a químicos conocidos por el estado de California como causantes de cancer y defectos de nacimiento u otros daños reproductivos, incluyendo el plomo que es emitido como resultado de las operaciones de reciclaje de baterías. Para mas información visite a www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

Para información adicional por favor contacte al Sr. Paul Johnson de **Kinsbursky Brothers International** al 714.738.6516

CONDITIONS: All advertisements are published upon the representation by the advertiser and/or agency that the agency and advertiser are authorized to publish the entire contents and subject matter thereof that the contents are not unlawful and do not infringe on the rights of any person or entity and that the agency and advertiser have obtained all necessary permissions and releases. Upon the *OC Weekly*'s request, the agent or advertiser will produce all necessary permissions and releases. In consideration of the publication of advertisements, the advertiser and agency will indemnify and save the *OC Weekly* harmless from and against any suit or suits/claims arising out of publication of such advertisements. The publisher reserves the right to revise, reject or omit without notice any advertisement at any time. The *OC Weekly* accepts no liability for, or failure to, run any cause to meet its advertisement. Publications and placement of advertisements are not guaranteed. Liability for any error appearing in an advertisement is limited to the cost of the space actually occupied. No allowance however will be granted for an error that does not materially affect the value of an advertisement. To qualify for an adjustment, any error must be reported within 15 days of publication date. Credit for errors is limited to first insertion. Drawings, artwork and artistic for reproduction are accepted only at the advertiser's risk and should be clearly marked to facilitate their return. The *OC Weekly* reserves the right to revise its advertising rates at any time. Announcements of an increase shall be made four weeks in advance to current advertisers. No verbal agreement altering the rates and/or the terms of this rate card shall be recognized.

SPECIALIZING
IN ALL THINGS
naughty!
PINK KITTY
YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR:
SEXY LINGERIE (S-XXXXL)
ADULT TOYS & NOVELTIES
XXX DVDS • LOTIONS & EDIBLES
BACHELORETTE • PARTY SUPPLIES
20% OFF
ANY PURCHASE OVER $25
*Present this ad for discount
Exp. 11/15/19
Not valid on sale items, previously purchased items or with any other discount or promotion. Not valid on Wa-Ville, Isle or Womanizer. Only one coupon may be redeemed per person.

UPCOMING SEX EDUCATION EVENTS

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO FEMALE ORGASM
THURS. NOV. 21ST @ 7:15PM

This class includes information on 8 of the different types of orgasms women can achieve. We will discuss how to have more frequent and more powerful orgasms to enhance your sex life and your relationship. We will include information on the Female Sexual Response Cycle as well as the female psychology that often gets in our way. Tickets are $15 per person, $25 per couple or $10 for college students when prepaid by 11/20/19. If space is available, tickets are $25 per person on the day of the workshop.

HOW TO GIVE A WORLD CLASS BLOWJOB
THURS. DEC. 5TH @ 7:15PM

This workshop is open to women only and usually sells out, so register early! This workshop will teach you techniques for amazing handjobs and blowjobs! We will cover common obstacles such as hairy undercarriages, to swallow or not, and a sensitive gag reflex. Tickets are $20 per person or 2 for $30 when prepaid by 12/3/19. If space is available, tickets will be $30 per person on the day of the workshop.

17955 SKY PARK CIRCLE, SUITE A, IRVINE | 949-660-4990
STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 11AM-7PM
CALL FOR DIRECTIONS TO STORE!

The Man Show

I am male. A close female friend was raped by an old acquaintance of mine. I knew this guy when we were tweens; I didn't really care for him as we got older. It turns out that a few years ago, he raped my friend in an alcohol blackout situation. She says she considers the encounter "not strictly consensual" and confided this guy didn't react well when she tried to talk to him about it. This isn't something she's "out" about. My feelings toward this guy are pretty dark. Now he's moved back to town and I see him around, and some good friends of mine who stayed in contact with him invite him to stuff. I would like to tell my other friends about this guy so I don't have to see him, but I can't because it's not my story to tell. I would rather just skip social events he's at. But without an explanation, I doubt my friends will understand, and it feels like I'm surrendering my friends to someone who assaulted a dear friend. I told someone once to please not invite him to something or I would skip it. They were confused, and it felt like an awkward ask. What should I say to my friends about this guy? What can I do to keep him out of my life?

Angry Confidante

"I don't like hanging out with Chuck and would appreciate it if you didn't invite him to the party/show/bins/whatever."

"What's the issue between you guys?"

"Look, we go a long way back, and it's not something I want to discuss. It's just awkward for us to be in the same place."

That's the best you can do without outing your friend—without telling a story that isn't yours to tell—and it's likely your mutual friends will be confused by the ask, AC, but you'll just have to be at peace with that. You could add something vague that omits identifying details ("He did a shitty thing to a friend"), but any details you share—however vague—could result in questions being put to you that you can't answer or are tempted to answer. Even worse, questions will be put to "Chuck," and he'll be free to lie, minimize or spin.

My only other piece of advice would be to follow your close female friend's lead. You describe what transpired between her and Chuck as rape, while your friend describes the encounter as "not strictly consensual." That's a little more ambiguous. And just as this isn't your story to tell, AC, it's not your experience to label. And does your friend want Chuck excluded from social events hosted by mutual friends, or is she able to tolerate his presence? If it's the latter, do the same.

If you're worried your friend tolerates Chuck's presence to avoid conflict and that being in the same space with him actually upsets her (or that the prospect of being in the same space with him keeps her from those spaces), discuss that with her one-on-one, and then determine—based on her feelings and her ask—what, if anything, you can do to advocate for her effectively without white-knighting her or making this not strictly-consensual and quite-possibly-rapey thing Chuck did to her all about you and your feelings.

It's really too bad Chuck reacted badly when your friend tried to talk to him about that night. If he's an otherwise decent person who has a hard time reading people when he's drunk, he needs to be made aware of that and drink less or not drink at all. If he's a shitty person who takes advantage of other people when they're drunk, he needs to know there will be social and potentially legal consequences for his behavior. The feedback your friend offered this guy—the way she tried to hold him accountable—could have prevented him from either fucking up like this again (if he's a decent but dense guy) or taking advantage like this again (if he's a shitty and rapey guy)—if he was willing to listen, which he wasn't. And since he wasn't willing to listen… yeah, my money is on shitty and rapey, not decent but dense.

I'm a single straight man. A friend recently told me her 20-year marriage hasn't included sex for the past six years. I offered to have sex with her, but only if her husband approves. If I were her husband, I would want to know. But I think it's unlikely her husband would approve our carnal encounter. Have I done wrong?

Married Asshole Refuses Intercourse To Affectionate Lady

If discreetly getting sex outside her marriage allows your friend to stay married and sane, and if she doesn't get caught, and if the sexual connection with her husband should revive after their kids are older—a lot of ifs, I realize—then the condition you set could result in your friend and her husband getting divorced now, which would preclude the possibility of their sexual connection reviving later. (Although we shouldn't assume that sex has to be part of a marriage for it to be loving and valid. Companionate marriages are valid marriages.) That said, your friend is free to fuck some other guy if she doesn't like your terms.

I'm a straight 45-year-old man. Good-looking. Three college degrees and one criminal conviction. Twice divorced. I've had some intense relationships with women I met by chance—one knocked on my door looking to borrow an egg—so I know I can impress women. But online dating doesn't work for me because I'm only 5-foot-7. Most women online filter me out based on height. The other problem is that I'm extremely depressed. I'm trying to work on the depression (seeing a psychiatrist and a psychologist), but the medications don't seem to do much for me. This is probably because of my alcoholism. I'd love to start my online profile by boldly proclaiming my height and my disdain for shallow women who disregard me for it, but that would come across as bitter, right?

Serious Heartbreak Over Relationship Travails

There are plenty of 5-foot-tall women out there, SHORT, women you'd tower over. But there are very few women who would respond positively—or at all—to a man whose online dating profile dripped with contempt for women who don't want to fuck him. Rejection sucks. I know, but allowing yourself to succumb to bitterness only guarantees more rejection. And first things first: Keep working on your depression with your mental-health team…and please consider giving up alcohol. No one is looking for perfection in a partner—and no one can offer perfection—but if dating you is likely to make someone's life harder, SHORT, they aren't going to want to date you. So get yourself into good working order, and then start looking for a partner. And since you know you have better luck when you meet people face-to-face, don't spend all your time on dating apps. Instead, find things you like to do and go do them. Maybe you can pick a presidential candidate you like—one who supports coverage for mental-health care?—and volunteer for their campaign.

SavageLove

» DAN SAVAGE

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), A drug that cures heartbreak? Seriously. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*

Now delivers.

Shop now at

MedMen.com/Delivery

Free for a limited time.

MedMen®
Premium Dispensaries

Santa Ana
2141 S Wright Street
(714) 515 8506
Open Daily 7am-10pm

Delivery available in California.
To see listings of stores opening soon in your area, visit MedMen.com

CTA-[illegible]-LIC

LEGAL CANNABIS FOR ALL ADULTS 21+

LICENSED & LEGAL. MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE TO PURCHASE RECREATIONAL (NON-MEDICINAL) CANNABIS

SCSA
SOUTH COAST SAFE ACCESS

LARGE SELECTION OF CBD PRODUCTS

SENIOR/DISABILITY
10% OFF

VETERANS
25% OFF

STUDENTS
10% OFF

RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT
20% OFF

WEBSITE
SOUTHCOASTSAFEACCESS.COM

CALL
949.474.7272

STORE HOURS
MON-SAT 8AM-10PM
SUN 10AM-8PM

FIND US
1900 E WARNER AVE,
SANTA ANA, CA, 92705

2017 BEST OF Reader's Poll NOMINEE OC WEEKLY

CALIFORNIA STATE LICENSE # C10-0000170-LIC